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Arab-Israeli Talks

Jordanian-Israeli-U.S. Experts Conclude Talks

JN2107115794 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1100 GMT 21 Jul 94

[Report by Khalid al-Shurman from the Dead Sea Hotel]

[Text] Jordanian, Israeli, and U.S. experts conclude their second and final day of economic talks here at the Jordanian side of the Dead Sea this afternoon.

The negotiators met this morning in three subcommittees, one discussing civil aviation, the second finance and trade, and the third projects in the fields of tourism and energy.

During two days of talks, the trilateral meetings focused on items of the Jordanian-Israeli common agenda which call for exploring the potential for a future bilateral cooperation between Jordan and Israel within a regional context.

In tourism, the two sides studied protection and development of joint archaeological sites as well as coordination in promoting regional archaeology to a world-wide audience. The tourism subcommittee also lists in its sub-agenda the ease and management of border crossing for tourists, including public transportation between the two countries. Encouragement of religious travel into and between regional countries will also be tackled by the experts.

In the subcommittee agenda on energy, however, Jordan aims to develop its energy resources to solar and wind energy, oil shale, use thermal energy resources, and oil and gas exploration. [sentence as heard]

At the end of their third session, which is held here in this region, each of the three subcommittees will issue a separate statement reviewing the outcome of negotiations and foretelling arrangements for future meetings.

Delegation Heads Comment on Talks

JN2107182294 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 21 Jul 94

[Text] The tripartite Jordanian-U.S.-Israeli Commission meetings on the experts level were concluded at the Dead Sea Hotel a short while ago. The commission, through its three subcommittees, discussed agenda items dealing with the economic dimension. Details in this report from our press team at the Dead Sea:

[Begin recording] [Unidentified correspondent] The three subcommittees formed by the trilateral commission meetings are the trade, banks, and economy subcommittee, the subcommittee on future cooperation projects, and the civil aviation subcommittee.

The projects subcommittee was divided into three working groups which are the Jordan Valley development group, the tourism group, and the roads group.

The Jordanian side was led by Dr. Mundhir Haddadin, the Israeli side was headed by Ambassador Eytan Bentsur, and the U.S. side was led by Larry Butcher.

At the end of meetings, delegations heads held a news conference in which they spoke about the atmosphere of talks and answered questions posed by journalists.

The head of the U.S. delegation expressed his thanks and appreciation to Jordan for hosting these trilateral meetings. He said we heard yesterday the speeches delivered by Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali, prime minister and foreign minister; Warren Christopher, U.S. secretary of state; and Shim'on Peres, Israeli foreign minister. He said we were very impressed by these speeches and the depth of their messages, which reflect views that will serve cooperation.

He added that the meetings of the three subcommittees have successfully ended and realized their objectives. He said the three parties worked out a draft statement on the achievements of the subcommittees which will define the means for making future progress.

Head of the Israeli side Eytan Bentsur said since it began its meetings, the trilateral commission made serious progress through discussing its agenda items and working out a basic plan that constitutes ground for future cooperation.

He said we achieved practical results and a practical understanding that will help us with more productive work in order to begin economic feasibility studies in the future and other things inspired by yesterday's meeting between al-Majali, Christopher, and Peres, and the expected meeting between His Majesty King Husayn and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin.

Dr. Mundhir Haddadin then spoke and said we are glad to be a party to the achievements that were been announced yesterday, and to participate in this tripartite round of talks.

He added that these historic talks with Christopher and Peres have facilitated progress, and we express our satisfaction for the progress realized so far and for working out details of what we have agreed on.

He said within this context, we look forward to the historic meeting that will be held next Monday [25 July] between His Majesty King Husayn, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, and U.S. President Bill Clinton in Washington.

He added we are looking forward to this meeting and to the momentum it will add, not only to the trilateral subcommittees, but to the peace process in general.

Our press team conducted the following interview with Dr. Mundhir Haddadin:

[Correspondent] Dr. Mundhir, in your capacity as head of the three working groups in the trilateral commission, what is your view on what has been realized during today and yesterday's talks?

[Haddadin] What has been realized is satisfactory, and is viewed as a start, or even more that a start. God willing, these agreements and trends, on which we agreed, will be followed up and the time that was wasted will be compensated to prepare for the projects that we may carry out when peace is established. The trilateral commission and the trilateral economic subcommittee is to search for what can be done to assist the bilateral negotiations that are taking place at this stage on the one hand, and on the other to prepare for projects that will be implemented in the future when peace is established, God willing. We are satisfied with what has been realized. The statement made yesterday shows that the efforts have been serious, and God willing, the conclusion of the trilateral technical subcommittees meetings today will support what was said in the statement yesterday.

[Correspondent] Will the summit meeting between His Majesty King Husayn and the Israeli prime minister, as guests of the U.S. President, influence progress on this track?

[Haddadin] I believe that the people hope this meeting will be a blessed one, and one that will expedite the peace process. In my view, it will influence the future of the region as a whole. We should wait until next Monday so we will hear what will be realized. Undoubtedly, the timing of this meeting is good, and will motivate all to reach the objective of attaining peace in the region—peace in which all take part, one which is comprehensive, and which, God willing, will include the whole region that suffered from wars for the past five decades.

[Correspondent] Thank you Dr. Mundhir Haddadin, head of the three working groups in the trilateral track of the Jordanian-U.S.-Israeli talks. [end recording]

Peres, Musa Begin Peace Talks in Cairo

Peres Comments on Talks, Gaza

NC2107140394 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1335 GMT 21 Jul 94

[Text] Cairo, 21 Jul (MENA)—Egyptian-Israeli talks began at the Foreign Ministry this afternoon. A round of talks was held between the Egyptian side led by Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa and the Israeli side led by Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres.

Peres stated on his arrival at the Egyptian Foreign Ministry that the peace process developments on all tracks will be discussed.

In reply to a question on the recent tragic events in Gaza, he said: We deeply regret the recent incidents in Gaza, especially as the Palestinian police forces were just starting to perform their duties.

He added that new crossing points will be opened in Gaza and we hope to solve all the problems facing the Palestinians and Israelis. He noted that permits have been issued to 2,500 Palestinians to work in Israel and that permits for thousands of others will also be issued. He said that what is needed now is for security to be established in the area and for each side to respect what has been agreed on with the other party.

Mubarak Receives Peres

NC2107152194 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1500 GMT 21 Jul 94

[Text] Cairo, 21 Jul (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak received Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres at the presidential office this afternoon. The Israeli minister arrived in Cairo earlier today.

Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa attended the meeting.

Musa, Peres on Peace, Crossings

NC2107163694 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1500 GMT 21 Jul 94

[Text] Cairo, 21 Jul (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has reiterated Egypt's support for the Jordanian stance in the peace negotiations. He said that Jordan endeavors to achieve what was agreed on in the Madrid Peace Conference, namely the land for peace principle.

This came in statements to the press by 'Amr Musa and Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres at the end of the two-hour Egyptian-Israeli talks that were held at the Foreign Ministry in Cairo today.

Musa said that his talks with Peres also dealt with the Syrian-Israeli negotiating track. He added: We demonstrated our interest in this track and in the need to advance matters in the Syrian-Israeli negotiations. 'Amr Musa stressed the extreme importance of the Syrian-Israeli track and the need to achieve specific progress in it.

'Amr Musa pointed out that the Egyptian-Israeli talks dealt with the various negotiating tracks in the Middle East peace process. He said that he listened to an assessment by Peres on the situation in these tracks. Musa added that he conveyed to Peres the Palestinian position and the number of problems that Dr. Nabil Sha'th, a member of the Palestinian National Authority, raised during their meeting in Cairo yesterday.

The foreign minister said that the Israeli side agreed to continue regular consultations regarding these and other issues. Musa noted that aspects of the Egyptian-Israeli relations were also discussed. He said that the discussion of all these topics will be completed during Peres' meeting with President Mubarak later today. Musa expressed the hope that good results will be achieved.

Asked if Israel made specific promises during the Egyptian-Israeli talks, 'Amr Musa said that the issue is not one of promises but of serious discussions of all issues raised.

Israeli Foreign Minister Peres was asked about Israel's continuous control of the crossings despite the self-rule agreement in Gaza and Jericho. He said that the agreement is valid and that we are committed to our signature. We share Egypt's views regarding the responsibility to ensure the success of the self-rule authority for the Palestinians. We are serious in this regard. Peres pointed out that problems have emerged, particularly in controlling the extremist organizations that oppose the agreement. We are trying to control them. However, it is now important that the self-rule authority is trying to overcome all these problems.

Responding to a question about Israel's stance on the rest of the Palestinian detainees, Peres said that there is a problem with regard to the 600 Palestinian detainees who refused to sign an agreement not to resume the use of force and violence if they are released. He said that it was previously agreed that the detainees sign this agreement.

Peres pointed out that the Palestinian side requested a list of those who refuse to sign the agreement. Peres said that Israel agreed to do so.

Responding to another question about the crossings, Peres said that work was proceeding well until the recent events in Gaza that caused the loss of lives and outbreak of disturbances. Peres added: We must work together to prevent the recurrence of such events, noting that the Palestinian and Israeli sides are heading toward achieving an agreement concerning the issue of crossings in the near future.

Asked about Israel's need for a solution on the Syrian track now that the problems with Egypt, the Palestinians, and Jordan have been solved, Peres said: I disagree over this point because peace cannot be complete without a comprehensive solution and a general agreement. He said: We cannot leave wounds open in the body of policies in this region.

The Israeli foreign minister stressed that peace with Syria is vital and must not be rushed. He warned, however, that any day that passes without peace is a waste of time. The Egyptian foreign minister interfered at this point and said: There will be no comprehensive peace without a peace with Syria and we are concerned about this.

Responding to a question on whether Egypt has been asked to play a role on the Syrian track, 'Amr Musa said: We are always prepared to play our role to advance the peace efforts. He said that there will be a meeting soon between President Husni Mubarak and Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad. He said that the agenda of this meeting will include the Syrian-Israeli track. Musa declined to specify the date or venue of the Egyptian-Syrian summit.

More on Musa-Peres Remarks

NC2107203694 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1730 GMT 21 Jul 94

[Text] Cairo, 21 Jul (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has stated that President Husni Mubarak and Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres have discussed everything concerning the various tracks of the peace process. They discussed the progress achieved to date and the remaining problems and exchanged views on relations between Egypt and Israel, Musa added.

Peres said that he had come to Cairo to brief President Mubarak on the latest developments on all tracks and progress relating to the Cairo Accord with the Palestinians.

This came in statements by 'Amr Musa and Peres following President Mubarak's two-hour meeting with Peres.

Peres affirmed that Egypt and Israel are committed to making every effort to ensure the success of the Cairo Accord. He said that his talks with President Mubarak dealt with the Jordanian-Israeli track, and he voiced the Israeli side's pleasure at expanding the peace alliance in the region. Peres expressed his great appreciation to President Mubarak and 'Amr Musa for their full support in the ongoing negotiations between Jordan and Israel.

In his remarks, the Israeli foreign minister voiced the conviction that Egypt has played and continues to play a vital role in achieving peace in the Middle East. Peres said that he explained to President Mubarak and 'Amr Musa that the negotiations with the Jordanians and Palestinians will not postpone Israel's readiness to hold negotiations with Syria. He added: We now have a commitment to achieve a comprehensive peace, which will become an established fact once peace is achieved with Syria. He said: President Mubarak has shown interest in all developments on these tracks and I did my best to convey to him the available information on these developments.

The Israeli foreign minister expressed pleasure at having the opportunity to exchange views with President Mubarak in an atmosphere of full friendship within the context of Egyptian-Israeli relations.

Responding to a question about the next step on the Syrian track, Peres said: I believe we have two problems—the method of negotiations and their substance. Peres asked: If we fail to agree on the method of negotiations, how can we deal with the substance? Peres said that the road of negotiations with the Egyptians, the Palestinians, the Jordanians, and any another road leading to peace will greatly depend on the method of negotiations.

Asked if he has received any Syrian reaction to the statement in which he declared Syria has sovereignty over the Golan Heights, the Israeli foreign minister said:

To my knowledge there has been no Syrian reaction. I believe this will please those who disagree with me.

To another question regarding his remark on Jordan's responsibility to supervise the holy places in Jerusalem, the Israeli foreign minister said that he said nothing of the kind. However, Jordan currently has some responsibilities concerning the holy places in Jerusalem, and we will respect this.

Responding to a question as to whether the possibility of Egypt's playing a role in speeding up the negotiating process on the Syrian track was raised during President Mubarak's talks with Peres, 'Amr Musa said Egypt has always said that progress on the Syrian track is important and that there can be no comprehensive peace without peace on this track.

'Amr Musa said that Egypt will not hesitate to offer assistance if it is asked to do so and that President Mubarak attaches great importance to ensuring success on the Syrian track.

Commenting on the Israeli-Jordanian negotiations yesterday, Peres said they were encouraging, constructive, and important.

Peres Concludes Talks, Departs

NC2107173094 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1655 GMT 21 Jul 94

[Text] Cairo, 21 Jul (MENA)—Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres and members of his delegation left Cairo this evening at the end of a four-hour visit. While in Cairo, the Israeli foreign minister met with President Husni Mubarak and held talks with Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa. The talks dealt with the latest developments in the peace process.

Peres was seen off at Cairo airport by Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa and the Israeli ambassador in Cairo.

Inter-Arab Affairs

League Head Lauds Husayn-Rabin Meeting, U.S. Moves

NC2207100294 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 18 Jul 94 p 6

[Excerpt] Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid has said that the upcoming meeting in Washington between King Husayn of Jordan and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin under the auspices of U.S. President Bill Clinton is a step toward achieving the peace, security, and stability that is desired by all the peoples of the region within a just and comprehensive solution to the conflicts from which the region has long suffered.

He told Amin Muhammad Amin, the head of AL-AHRAM's Arab affairs section, that the Arab League is looking forward to completing the peace process through similar active moves on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks of the negotiations.

'Abd-al-Majid said U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's visit to the region, which began yesterday, is a positive sign showing a sincere desire to surmount the obstacles that hinder progress on the Syrian and Lebanese negotiating tracks. He said the U.S. move is in line with Arab League efforts in this regard. We are following this U.S. move with great appreciation, he said. [passage omitted]

Iraqi Envoy Calls For Arab Reconciliation

NC2107143194 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1340 GMT 21 Jul 94

[Text] Cairo, 21 Jul (MENA)—Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid received a message today from Iraqi Foreign Minister Sa'id al-Sahhaf during his audience with Ambassador Nabil Najm, Iraq's permanent envoy to the Arab League.

Ambassador Najm said that the meeting came within the framework of constant consultations between Iraq and the Arab League secretary general to discuss developments in the Arab arena in general and Iraq's relations with the Security Council and the recent discussions held within the context of the periodic review of the sanctions imposed on Iraq and the new atmosphere that emerged during these discussions.

He expressed hopes that the Arab nation will succeed in overcoming a number of pending problems among its countries so they can move to a new stage based on protecting pan-Arab security. He said that Iraq supports any Arab effort to achieve Arab reconciliation, either through the Arab League or the Arab leaders, so as to solve problems through dialogue, confidence, and good intentions.

Islamic Affairs

Political Islam Review: AL-NUR 13 Jul

NC2107205694

[Editorial Report] The following is a comprehensive review of all items in the 13 July issue of the Arabic-language newspaper Cairo AL-NUR that pertain to political Islamic issues.

CONTENTS:

1. World Islamic Conference To Be Held in Alexandria
2. New Restrictions on Muslim Female Attire
3. Secular Writers' Campaign Against the Veil Rebutted
4. Chief Editor Welcomes North Yemen's Victory
5. Muslim Affairs in Africa, Bosnia Highlighted
6. Paper Investigates Religious Supervisors in Schools

WORLD ISLAMIC CONFERENCE TO BE HELD IN ALEXANDRIA

A 90-word report by 'Ali Sabir on page one says that the Higher Council for Islamic Affairs will hold a world conference in the middle of August in Alexandria under the auspices of President Husni Mubarak. The three-day conference will be attended by about 500 Muslim ministers, scholars, and thinkers, who will discuss "the present and future of the Islamic nation in the various political, economic, social, and cultural spheres."

NEW RESTRICTIONS ON MUSLIM FEMALE ATTIRE

A 150-word unattributed report on page one says that Education Minister Husayn Kamil Baha'-al-Din has "placed new restrictions on female students dressed in Muslim attire in middle and high schools." The minister stipulated that girls wishing to cover their hair while in school must bring a written request from their parents to get such permission. The paper comments that "the veil is a religious duty of girls who have reached the age of puberty and does not require a permit by their parents or by the minister himself."

SECULAR WRITERS' CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE VEIL REBUTTED

An unattributed 700-word article on pages one and five attempts to rebut the arguments made by some secular writers against the Muslim veil. The paper says that a number of secular writers have launched "a fierce campaign" against the Islamic attire worn by Muslim women, claiming that the veil is a social custom and not a religious duty. The paper cites in this regard articles by Counselor Muhammad Sa'id al-'Ashmawi in ROSE AL-YUSUF and by Dr. 'Abd-al-'Azim Ramadan in AL-AHRAM on 2 July 1994.

CHIEF EDITOR WELCOMES NORTH YEMEN'S VICTORY

A 1,000-word editorial by Chief Editor al-Hamzah Di'bis on page one reviews the developments in Yemen and welcomes the north's victory over the secessionists. The writer accuses the small group of "veteran communists" in south Yemen of attempting to dismantle the country's unity and accuses foreign parties, including UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus Butrus-Ghali, of trying to stop the north from achieving victory over the south. The writer ends by calling on the kings and presidents of the Arab and Islamic states to restore Islamic unity and remove all reasons for division.

MUSLIM AFFAIRS IN AFRICA, BOSNIA HIGHLIGHTED

AL-NUR publishes on page two an interview and reports about Muslim affairs in the world. A 500-word report by Ahmad 'Abd-al-Fattah on an interview with a representative of the Movement for the Salvation of the Liberian Muslims describes "the ugly crimes committed by the Jews and the Christians against the Muslims in Liberia" and the Islamic awakening in that country.

Another 30-word report says that the number of Muslims in Rwanda is 635,400 spread over all areas of the country. The report says that there are 17 mosques and Islamic centers in the capital of Kigali alone.

An 800-word article by Zakariya Ahmad Nur highlights the crimes of the Serbs against the Muslims in Bosnia and the UN indifference.

PAPER INVESTIGATES RELIGIOUS SUPERVISORS IN SCHOOLS

AL-NUR publishes a 1,800-word investigative report on page three on the issue of religious supervisors in schools and whether this is a truth or propaganda. The paper refers to a statement by the education minister more than a year ago that his ministry has decided to appoint a qualified religious supervisor in every school. His task will be to give the students religious and moral instruction to "protect them against extremism and subversive ideas." Following a tour of a number of schools and interviews with students and teachers, the paper found out that there are no religious supervisors in schools, although, the paper says, the Education Ministry's adviser on religious education insisted that religious supervisors exist in all schools.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat, Christopher Hold Talks in Gaza Strip

Economic Hardships Discussed

TA2107152894 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 21 Jul 94

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher and PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat conferred in Gaza today for approximately two hours.

In a subsequent news conference, Secretary Christopher said that the meeting dealt primarily with the economic distress in the Gaza Strip. He disclosed that John Spero, the U.S. under secretary of state for economic, business, and agricultural affairs, will remain in Gaza to help out with this issue. Nevertheless, the secretary of state emphasized, the PLO must understand that in order to get international aid it must present appropriate economic programs.

Yasir 'Arafat stressed that action must be taken soon to ease the economic hardships, and noted that the incidents at the Erez checkpoint were a result of those hardships. He also pointed to the need to hold elections in the territories following the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] redeployment. The PLO leader complained that he cannot visit Jericho because the safe passage stipulated in the Cairo agreement is not being properly implemented. He invited King Husayn to visit with him

the holy sites in Jerusalem, because he believes these sites fall under the Palestinians' jurisdiction.

Joint News Conference Held

NC2107160794 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1525 GMT 21 Jul 94

[Text] Gaza, 21 Jul (MENA)—Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat welcomed U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's visit to Gaza today, as part of Christopher's current tour of the region.

Speaking at a joint news conference with Christopher at the conclusion of their talks in Gaza today, 'Arafat said that he spoke frankly to Christopher about the current situation in the Palestinian self-rule area in Gaza and Jericho and the difficulties it is facing as a result of the deteriorating economic conditions, which are threatening the Palestinians with famine.

'Arafat added that he had asked Christopher for Washington's intervention with the donor countries to speed up the aid they have promised to the Palestinian National Authority [PNA] in the self-rule areas. He explained that since his visit to the White House last September he has found a real friend there in U.S. President Clinton. He said that he is certain that Clinton will try to speed up the implementation of these promises.

Christopher then expressed his happiness at visiting Gaza, extending congratulations to President 'Arafat. He said that he himself has seen the bad economic situation in Gaza and Jericho and the difficult conditions there. He added that "this is not an easy thing."

The U.S. secretary of state asserted that on his return to Washington he will make efforts to have the donor countries and the IMF speed up the financial aid to the PNA.

Christopher said that he and 'Arafat discussed relations between the PNA and the United States and also the ongoing talks between Israel and the Palestinians. He expressed hope that these talks will lead to progress in the comprehensive peace process. He added that he had also talked with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin about the need to maintain the peace course.

In reply to a question on the negotiations to extend self-rule to other parts of the West Bank, Yasir 'Arafat said that he stressed to the U.S. secretary of state the need for Israel to shoulder its responsibilities by withdrawing its forces from the West Bank towns during the holding of Palestinian elections and refraining from placing obstacles in their path. He added: We are not starting negotiations but implementing what we have agreed on. He explained that he discussed with Christopher what had been discussed at his meeting in Paris with the Israeli prime minister. He said: There are many responsibilities which we are both shouldering for the sake of peace.

Regarding the regrettable incidents at the Erez crossing point in Gaza, President 'Arafat said: What happened in Erez reflects the bitter economic situation. We are facing problems. This is a difficult situation created by Israel and should not be repeated. He added: We are facing problems; everyone should understand this and cooperate with us to overcome them.

'Arafat went on to say: We are taking quick action to improve the economic situation. No one knows what will happen if we do not solve these economic and humanitarian problems quickly.

Asked his view of Israel inviting Jordan's King Husayn to visit Jerusalem while no similar invitation has been extended to him, President 'Arafat said: Jerusalem concerns both Muslims and Christians. I welcome and invite King Husayn, so we can go together to Jerusalem.

Christopher Departs Gaza

NC2107144894 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1400 GMT 21 Jul 94

[Text] Gaza, 21 Jul (MENA)—U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher left Gaza this afternoon. During the two-hour visit, Christopher met with Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat and members of the Palestinian National Authority.

Islamic Jihad Leader Scores Visit

NC2107193794 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Arabic 1730 GMT 21 Jul 94

[Report by Muhammad Bishkar from Beirut]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Last night the Palestinian police arrested a number of Palestinian mujahidin who took part in an attack on a Zionist military patrol three days ago near Rafah, in the Gaza Strip, killing a Zionist officer. Major General Ghazi Jabali, commander of the Palestinian police in Gaza, has confirmed the arrests and said that the police will not permit such actions against the Zionists from inside the Palestinian self-rule areas. Yesterday the Palestinian police demolished a house located in Tallat al-Sultan, near Rafah, because the attackers allegedly hid inside it when the Zionist occupation forces were searching for them. The Hamas Movement has announced its responsibility for the operation to avenge the martyrs of the Zionist massacre committed against the Palestinian workers in the Gaza Strip a few days ago.

Also in the Gaza Strip, the Palestinian police have begun taking strict security measures in preparation for the arrival there of U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher this afternoon to meet with 'Arafat and the members of the Palestinian Authority as part of his current tour in the area. The police closed several roads and establish fixed and mobile checkpoints, particularly along the roads which Christopher's motorcade will take.

The U.S. secretary's visit to Gaza was sharply criticized by Dr. Fathi al-Shuqaqi, secretary general of the Islamic Jihad Movement in Palestine. In an interview we conducted with him a short time ago, he informed us that Christopher's meeting with 'Arafat today falls within the framework of the U.S. Administration's support for the role of the Palestinian self-rule authority in safeguarding Zionist security. He maintained that the Americans are making every effort to ensure the success of the self-rule agreement they sponsored, particularly in view of the continuation of the intifadah against the occupation and rejection of this agreement and its follow-ups. Dr. al-Shuqaqi said that Christopher will offer the usual promises about financial aid to the Palestinian Authority to save 'Arafat from a new possible intifadah as a result of the deteriorating economic situation in Gaza.

Hamas Warns of Possible Palestinian Civil War

NC2107190194 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Arabic 1730 GMT 21 Jul 94

[Text] Our correspondent in Beirut has reported that Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] warned in a statement distributed in the Gaza Strip today of the consequences of the self-rule authority's practices that might plunge the Palestinian arena into civil war if they continue.

Hamas said in its statement that Palestinian police actions and recent statements by the commander of the Palestinian police about his determination to repress any action by Hamas against the Zionist occupation create conditions for a Palestinian civil war, which the enemy government will seek to ignite.

This Palestinian official had announced that the Palestinian police would pursue and arrest Hamas members who launch military operations against the Zionist forces of occupation in the Gaza Strip.

Fatah Representative Discusses Position on Jerusalem

NC2207100094 Cairo MENA in English 0844 GMT 22 Jul 94

[Text] Cairo, July 22 (MENA)—Palestinian ambassador and representative of Fatah movement here Zuhdi al-Qidrah today said the whole issue of Jerusalem is raised for discussion and is an integral part of the rest of the West Bank territories, in accordance with the Oslo Agreement.

What applies to Gaza and Jericho, applies, by necessity to Jerusalem according to UN Security Resolution 242 which is the basis of the current settlement, he said.

Al-Qidrah said Jerusalem is important not only for the Palestinians, but also for Muslims, Christians and all the Arabs. It is the capital of the independent Palestinian state, he added.

Talks about an Israeli unified Jerusalem is totally rejected because it contradicts with the international legitimacy, UN resolutions and the Palestinian-Israeli Agreement, signed in Washington on September 13, he said.

Habash: PFLP To Boycott Upcoming PNC Session

TA2107133294 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 21 Jul 94 pp 1, 18

[Report by Rashid Hilal]

[Excerpts] Damascus—Dr. George Habash, secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP], has said that so far his Front has not received any invitation to attend the Palestine National Council [PNC] session slated to be held in Gaza. He added: Even if an invitation is extended, we will boycott this session because of its nature and goal.

Habash stressed that the Palestinian leadership has pledged to annul basic articles from the Palestinian National Covenant, something that undermines the substance of this Covenant. According to Habash, this means that the PNC members who will be invited to this session will be like "false witnesses" to an issue that is extremely grave and important. [passage omitted]

Dr. Habash believes that the expected PNC session will be asked to peddle the Israeli condition for changing the National Covenant.

On Israel's objection to the entry of leaders and members from the opposition factions, Dr. Habash said: This is natural and for reasons of which we are all aware. He explained that the presence of opposition leaders and cadres inside the homeland means growing resistance against the occupation. Consequently, Israel has no need to open new doors that it deems unneccesary.

Factions Refuse To Help in Forming Gaza Council

TA2107171594 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 21 Jul 94 p 4

[Text] Gaza—Four Palestinian factions have announced that they will not cooperate with 'Awn al-Shawwa in forming the Gaza municipal council. They considered his assignment to this task as a step to breach the national consensus.

A joint press statement issued yesterday in Gaza and signed by Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, the Islamic Jihad Movement, and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine said that they will not cooperate with al-Shawwa in this task. The statement added that these factions had previously agreed to participate in a temporary municipal council headed by Engineer Mansur al-Shawwa with the aim of relieving the situation in the town and solving the difficult problems in the

sphere of services—far from political differences. The factions said that they responded not with a factional spirit, but each time the Palestinian Authority raised obstacles.

The four factions said that a municipal council cannot succeed in its relief mission without the participation and support of all forces and the inclusion of professional figures enjoying competence, honesty, and a good reputation. They called on 'Awn al-Shawwa, member of the negotiating economic delegation, to turn down this assignment since it is a circumvention of the national consensus of all active forces in Gaza.

People's Party, Opposition Issue Joint Statement

TA2107154694 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 21 Jul 94 p 19

[Excerpts] Gaza, QUDS PRESS—Five major Palestinian factions, three of which fall within the PLO's framework, issued statements on the bloody incidents at the Erez checkpoint. The incident in which many Palestinian workers were killed and injured, underscores the fact that it is "impossible" for any agreement to succeed while Israel occupies parts of the Palestinian territories. This occupation is a reference to the Israeli limited military presence in the Gaza Strip despite the transfer of administration to the Palestinian Authority.

A statement signed by Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, the Islamic Jihad Movement in Palestine, and the Palestinian People's party called for "all Palestinian factions and forces to participate in a general and comprehensive national dialogue to confront the challenges and anything that the current stage might impose." The factions stated their intention to hold a mass rally on 21 July in Gaza's main stadium to condemn the Erez checkpoint massacre and call for resistance against the Israeli occupation.

The Palestinian factions, which are opposed to the self-rule agreement but which hold contradictory views regarding the peace process, called for halting the current talks and contacts with Israel. [passage omitted]

This is the first time that the Palestinian People's Party, whose representatives joined the Madrid Conference and Washington's bilateral talks, has participated in a statement by the Palestinian opposition which includes a political alliance of 10 factions headquartered in Damascus.

'Labor Minister' Arrives in Jericho, Makes Comments

TA2107133394 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 21 Jul 94

[Text] Dr. Samir Ghawshah, secretary general of the Popular Struggle Front and the minister of labor in the Palestinian autonomy, arrived in Jericho today and conferred with the commander of the local police force.

Ghawshah told our correspondent Ron Nesi'el that although he has reservations about the Cairo agreement, he considers it a first step on the way to an independent Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital. According to him, the Palestinian Authority is a temporary institution, because he believes free and democratic elections will be held within a few months. In his opinion, with the help of the Arab countries and the international community the Palestinian Authority will be able to tackle the problem of unemployment and to create new jobs.

New Radio To Broadcast 'Within Next Few Weeks'

TA2107170894 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 21 Jul 94 p 4

[Text] Gaza—According to a decision by President Yasir 'Arafat, a new Palestinian radio station, called "The Voice of Palestine, the Voice of Freedom and Peace," is expected to be inaugurated shortly in the Gaza Strip.

A committee composed of Samih Samarah, director of the Palestinian radio abroad, Hamzah al-Samadi, head of the Jerusalem Center for Strategic Studies, and journalist 'Abd-al-Jabbar al-Barghuthi yesterday took delivery of the first transmitting equipment for this station. The transmitter was donated by Israeli peace activist Abie Nathan to the Palestinian National Authority following his meeting with the Palestinian leader in Gaza last week.

This radio station is expected to begin broadcasting to the West Bank and Gaza Strip and some neighboring countries within the next few weeks.

Quray': Aid Projects To Begin 'Next Month'

TA2107171194 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 21 Jul 94 pp 1, 7

[Report by 'Abd-al-Ra'uf Arna'ut]

[Text] Jerusalem—Dr. Ahmad Quray', alias Abu-'Ala', minister of economy in the Palestinian National Authority, expects the implementation of some of the aid projects which the donor countries have promised the Palestinians to begin within the next month.

In an exclusive interview with AL-NAHAR, Abu-'Ala' said that the harsh conditions in the Gaza Strip need to be confronted seriously whether by the Palestinian Authority, the international community, or the Israeli Government which bears the most responsibility for these social situations.

Commenting on the recent Israeli decision to prevent Palestinians from carrying out their political activities in Jerusalem, Abu-'Ala' said: Undoubtedly, this decision is

not helpful. Israel has no right to try imposing any fait accompli or facts in between the signing of the agreement and the final stage of talks.

Jordan, Israel Seen 'Closer' to Peace Agreement

TA2107183394 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 21 Jul 94 p 11

[Editorial: "Another Development"]

[Text] The trilateral meeting held yesterday on Jordanian territory between Jordanian Prime Minister and Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali, Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, and U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, and the joint communique emanating from this meeting undoubtedly constitute a new and important development on the Jordanian-Israeli negotiating track. This confirms that with the participation and support of the United States, the two sides are closer to reaching a peace agreement.

This meeting was not unexpected. It was preceded by several developments, beginning with the Jordanian and Israeli sides' reaching and signing an agenda. This was followed by the meeting between Jordan's Crown Prince Hasan and the Israeli foreign minister, agreement by the two sides to transfer the bilateral talks to the region, and agreement on a summit meeting between the Jordanian monarch, King Husayn, and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin in Washington on 25 July. This culminated in the launching of bilateral talks on the Wadi 'Arabah border on 18 July.

This new development is an addition to previous ones, such as the two sides' reaching a series of economic agreements, forming joint committees to prepare for joint projects, and putting the final touches to the ongoing preparations for the Husayn-Rabin summit. This is the first time in 46 years of conflict that we saw on television screens an Israeli official setting foot on Jordanian territory amid assurances by the two sides that war has become a thing of the past and that peace is the only possible option today.

In addition, this development put an end to statements propagated by some right-wing Israeli sources to the effect that Jordan is Palestine. This was affirmed by the Israeli foreign minister when he clearly declared that Jordan is not Palestine and that solving the Palestinian problem was a different matter which could not be solved on Jordanian territory.

Naturally, this development does not mean that the two sides have reached agreements on major issues of contention, foremost of which are the issues of borders, water, and refugees. Moreover, if the goal is achievement of a comprehensive and just peace, this development cannot be isolated from the entire developments of the peace process, to which the three parties confirmed their commitment.

In sum, if since its beginning the peace process did not exclude disproportionate progress on the various negotiating tracks, which is what we are witnessing today in the absence of Arab coordination, the Madrid Conference clearly defined the goal of the peace process, namely, reaching a comprehensive peace in this region. Without getting closer to achieving this goal, any progress on any track cannot be consolidated if it is not accompanied by progress on the other tracks, leading to comprehensive peace agreements that provide fundamental solutions to the major issues in the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Shots Wound IDF Soldier in Gaza; Closure Lifted

TA2207044894 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 22 Jul 94

[Text] An IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldier was shot and wounded this morning in an ambush in the southern sector of the Qatif Bloc area of the Gaza Strip. His wounds are reported to be light to moderate. The attack took place near the hothouses of the settlement of Morag as a patrol checked the perimeter fence.

The Army lifted the closure on the Gaza Strip this morning. An IDF statement said the Erez checkpoint was reopened at 3 o'clock. The checkpoint was closed on Sunday [17 July] after fierce clashes between Palestinian workers and Palestinian and Israeli security forces. Only a few hundred Palestinians arrived at Erez to cross into Israel this morning. The crossing was without incident. New security arrangements have been introduced at the checkpoint, including a high cement fence around the Egged parking lot.

Islamic Jihad Claims Responsibility for Shooting

TA2207080094 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0700 GMT 22 Jul 94

[Text] IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and Palestinian police units are searching for the terrorists who ambushed an IDF patrol in the southern part of the Gaza Strip this morning. An IDF soldier suffered slight to moderate injuries in this incident. The shots were fired near the hothouses of Morag, in the Qatif Bloc. An Islamic Jihad leaflet was found at the site. It states that the attack was in retaliation for the events at the Erez checkpoint early this week.

Leaders Claim Israeli Moves on Jerusalem 'Illegal'

TA2207090294 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0800 GMT 22 Jul 94

[Text] Faysal al-Husayni and Hanan 'Ashrawi, who are among the prominent Palestinian leaders in the territories, reject the legal steps the Israeli Government intends to implement and statements by Israeli officials regarding Palestinian activity in Jerusalem. Al-Husayni said the Israeli measures endanger the peace process, because there can be no solution to the conflict without

resolving the Jerusalem problem. Al-Husayni claims that the Israeli attempt to change the facts on the ground is illegal and contravenes both the peace agreement and international law.

Hanan 'Ashrawi said that government legislation banning Palestinian political activity in Jerusalem is illegal in terms of international law and is incompatible with Foreign Minister Peres' letter regarding the Jerusalem issue.

Our correspondent Ron Nesi'el reports that al-Husayni and 'Ashrawi spoke at a news conference at East Jerusalem's Orient House.

Algeria

Omani Official 'To Enhance' Missing Envoy Search

JN2207090094 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0830 GMT 22 Jul 94

[Text] Algiers, 22 Jul (WAKH)—Haytham Bin-Tariq al-Sa'id, Omani Foreign Ministry under secretary for political affairs, and his delegation arrived in the Algerian capital last night. His visit aims to enhance efforts by Algerian authorities in charge of the intensive investigations designed to ensure the safety of Hilal Bin-Salim al-Siyabi, Oman's ambassador to Algeria.

The Omani News Agency said al-Sa'id will hold talks with senior Algerian officials to get acquainted with the circumstances and dimensions of the incident, resolve the problem, and return the ambassador safe and sound.

Egypt

Israeli Foreign Minister Arrives on Brief Visit

NC2107123494 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1228 GMT 21 Jul 94

[Text] Cairo, 21 Jul (MENA)—Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres and his accompanying delegation arrived in Cairo this afternoon on a short visit lasting several hours during which he will be received by President Husni Mubarak.

Peres will hold a round of talks with Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa that will deal with peace talks developments.

He was received at Cairo Airport by Musa and Israeli Ambassador in Cairo David Sultan.

Cooperation Agreement Signed With Kuwait

NC2007114794 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1015 GMT 20 Jul 94

[Text] Cairo, 20 Jul (MENA)—Counselor Ahmad Radwan, minister of cabinet affairs and follow-up, today signed a memorandum of understanding with Mr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Dakhil, Kuwaiti minister of state for cabinet affairs and minister of planning, who is currently visiting Cairo.

Among other things, the memorandum stipulates the formation of a committee under the chairmanship of the two ministers to bolster the process of cooperation, exchanges of opinion, and consultations, which will be beneficial to both countries and will promote joint interests. The committee is to meet at least once a year, alternating between Cairo and Kuwait, to follow up on the implementation of the agreed upon programs. It will also cooperate in exchanging information, research, studies, and expertise in all fields and sectors that contribute to ministerial action between the two countries.

The memorandum recommends that the two countries exchange expertise in the fields of legal and social counseling, among others. It also recommends that the two countries cooperate in training the employees of the Council of Ministers, providing them with the skills and the necessary information and training, and in starting a exchange student program encompassing training courses, study programs, and scientific qualification for various fields.

The Kuwaiti minister arrived in Cairo the day before yesterday heading a high-level delegation to hold talks with Counselor Ahmad Radwan, minister of cabinet affairs and follow-up.

The object of the visit is to increase cooperation between the Council of Ministers' departments in both countries and review their operational mechanisms. It also aims to study the mechanism for implementing the decisions of the councils of ministers and the ministerial committees stemming from them. The Kuwaiti official will also visit some research and training centers and institutions in Egypt to see how they operate. Among these centers are the Information Center, the decision-making apparatus, the Strategic Studies' Center at al-Ahram, and the General Information Agency.

Afghan Minister Conveys Message to Mubarak

NC2107102794 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0847 GMT 21 Jul 94

[Text] Cairo, 21 Jul (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak received a message from Afghan President Borhanoddin Rabbani today. It was conveyed by Engineer Mohammad Ayub, minister of water and electricity and the Afghan president's envoy, during an audience with President Mubarak today attended by Engineer 'Abd-al-Hadi Radi, minister of public works and water resources.

The Afghan minister said after the meeting that the message dealt with a request for Egyptian assistance to rebuild the devastated infrastructure in Afghanistan. He noted that his country is suffering from problems caused by the war that has been going on for 16 years, during which it destroyed roads, schools, hospitals, other buildings, and irrigation systems.

He said he and President Mubarak discussed the ties of friendship and fraternity between Egypt and Afghanistan.

Commenting on the current situation in Afghanistan, he said it is stable in most regions except limited areas, where fighting, skirmishes, and artillery duels take place.

Replying to a question on Arab extremists and terrorists in Afghanistan, he said these Arabs basically belong to the Hekmatyar regime, which helps them. He added that they are now committing acts of violence against the Afghan regime and civilians in Afghanistan and that the ruling regime in Afghanistan is suffering from the same

damage being inflicted by these extremists and terrorists on some Arab countries. He noted that the legitimate regime is now trying to get rid of them and deport them from Afghanistan.

Mubarak Speech Stresses National Dialogue

NC2107113794 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0807 GMT 21 Jul 94

[Speech by President Husni Mubarak at a ceremony held in the Madinat al-Nasr Conference Hall in Cairo on the anniversary of the 23 July 1952 revolution—live]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Brothers and sisters, today we celebrate the anniversary of the glorious July revolution and recall its splendid memories and some of its lessons, confident of our noble people's ability to distinguish between falsehood and truth and between pretense and fact.

Over the years the July revolution has faced under unjust campaigns launched by its enemies, who leveled false accusations against the achievements of a great human revolution that changed the course of history. They viewed the revolution as a string of extraordinary measures to protect its goals and progress. The revolution received unjust verdicts from some people who regard themselves part of it. The campaigns sought to trap the revolution's lively human struggle in solid molds opposed to progress and the spirit of the age on the pretext of preserving the revolution's values and heritage.

But the July revolution survived, despite unjust campaigns and unfair verdicts, as a bright spot in the history of national struggle in defense of the values of freedom, justice, and dignity. These are the constants of the immortal July revolution, which can never fade, because it embodies great values for which the Egyptian citizen struggled over the years. The July revolution was an expression of the hopes of a noble nation striving to restore its position as a strong and honorable nation, preserve the independence of its will and decisionmaking, and struggle for a better future free of the shackles of exploitation and oppression.

The July revolution was not a mere theoretical, ideological notion, but the real struggle of a nation driving its way toward freedom and dignity in a world governed by the chains of colonialism and exploitation. The glorious Egyptian revolution, initiated and led by Jamal 'Abd-al-Nasir [applause] on 23 July 1952, came as a historic response to the requirements of a new age, the signs of which were looming after World War II. It was an age calling to free the oppressed nations and end colonialism and all forms of exploitation.

The revolution came to advocate relations between nations on more equal and just bases and to herald a world that allows peaceful coexistence among all nations, large and small, far from the concepts of domination and hegemony. These were to be relations that urge all members of the international community to respect nations' rights, primarily their right to self-determination and to choose a political and social system that they deem compatible with their circumstances and their legitimate goals and hopes.

In defense of its principles, the July revolution fought ferocious battles at home and abroad until it became a beacon and a help to all the Third World nations in their struggle for liberation, political and economic independence, and a dignified life.

While the July revolution was born at the height of the age of ideological conflict, the Cold War, and the conflict of doctrines and ideas, it refused to be constrained within rigid molds concerning theory. It imposed itself on a reality that changed constantly and the circumstances and stages of which varied in accordance with the circumstances and situation of each nation. The revolution refused to trap its activities within the framework of rigid theoretical doctrines so that it might always be live and dynamic, preserving for itself the right of movement, choice, and initiative. The revolution addresses reality according to changes and circumstances so that it does not become hostage to antiquated ideas or rigid theories. If it did not, it would be isolated from the changes that take place on the ground. These changes require flexibility, vitality, and a practical understanding of the requirements for freedom of movement without forfeiting firm principles.

This is the spirit of the July revolution in its correct essence. It is far removed from the attempts of those people, who, in an age where doctrines and theories collapsed, sought to freeze a rich and grand human experience, such as the Egyptian revolution, within rigid molds.

Brothers and Sisters, the July revolution was not established on the shoulders of one party or group. It was not the result of action by an ideological group that took control of the free officers' organization of our Armed Forces. It was the fruit of the efforts of the virtuous sons of Egypt, youths who believed in their God. They were motivated by Egyptian nationalism out of their anger at the situation in the country, which was on the verge of collapse. They were aspiring for comprehensive change—the demand of all the people. Imagination ran away with some deluded people who still suffer from blurred vision and foggy ideas such that they claimed they were the ones who planned the July revolution and organized its cadres inside the Armed Forces. They ignored the events of modern history confirmed by documents and facts.

The Egyptian revolution was a national act of struggle. The vanguards and leaders of this struggle were the free officers who wanted to preserve the revolution's independence away from the trends of party life, which suffered fragmentation and disintegration. The revolution came to express the feelings and true interests of the

masses. It rose above the narrow views of a small group that serves its own interests and does not express the national and popular will.

The fierce battles the revolution fought in defence of its principles and to protect its course led to difficult circumstances. These circumstances dictated that the determination of national priorities and options should continue to stem from the revolutionary leadership's views, a leadership that achieved greater solidarity with the people and that attached itself to their identity so that no scope was left for differentiating between the will of the leadership and that of the masses.

The objective was to allow the revolution to fortify itself against the conspiracies inside and pressures from outside and to succeed in implementing its program, which changed Egypt's social map and the Arab world's political map.

The July revolution continued its course along restricted options imposed by the fifties and sixties, which witnessed the rise of the Cold War. There were increasing pressures of international polarization and the conflict between the two superpowers over areas of influence escalated. We need to consider, when we discuss the revolution and recall its sweet course, that the basic options the revolution took were the only options open to it at that time. True revolutionary action does not take place away from the social environment within which it moves. It cannot take place away from the historic circumstances it lives in so that it might step into the light armed with the ability to adapt to the circumstances of reality and its changing conditions.

A correct understanding of the course of the July Revolution should lead us to state a number of paramount and indisputable facts:

First, it is unfair, 40 years later, to assess the revolution and judge its leaders by the standards of the late 20th century. The revolution's leaders faced a completely different situation. There has been a sea change of social, economic, and political realities since the revolution, and not only on the domestic front. Drastic changes have taken place in the region and internationally, altering forever the world we once knew and producing an international environment radically different from that of the fifties and sixties.

Analysts and observers agree that these changes, and the attendant ramifications, mean that we live today in a world governed by a radically changed set of principles and values.

Second, there is no loyalty to the revolution evident in the actions of some who count themselves, rightly or wrongly, among its makers, when they try to pull the country back to the concepts and practices adopted by the revolution in its early years, as if nothing has changed since and as if the wheel of history has stopped turning. Such people insult the revolution by claiming that history stopped sometime in the sixties or that the clock could be turned back to create a national, regional, and international situation resembling that of mid-century.

Such people tend to start quixotic battles that are completely divorced from modern reality and removed from the life of the people. This is not loyalty to the revolution. True loyalty is for us to turn our hearts and eyes to the present and the future. Change is natural; history is always in flux. Revolution is not solely the legacy of a few who claim a monopoly on it because they played a part in it. Revolution is a living thing, a fertile legacy that belongs to all the masses. It is not an artifact that enemies can twist and impostors can turn to satisfy narrow goals that are far removed from the revolution's values and the interests of the masses. The masses have a stake in the revolution. Its values are wedged deep in their conscience. The masses can turn these values into a constant energy that will infuse the national movement with new spirit.

Third, a correct understanding of the dimensions of the July Revolution will prompt us to be part of history's drive, an active agent in the making of the modern world. We are called upon to play an effective and influential role in this world. We cannot keep on singing the praises of a bygone era. We have to plunge into the present and live for the future.

Development is the law of nature. History is always on the move. The nostalgia some people feel for the past should never blind us to crystal clear facts. The first of these facts is that the revolution would not have taken place had Egypt enjoyed freedom, independence, justice, dignity, or equality between all Egyptians before 1942; it would not have received sweeping popular support; and it would not have brought about the great changes it achieved here and abroad.

Fourth: No one can deny that the revolution, like any other human action, spawned some bad practices along with the good. But any fair patriot who respects the truth can easily understand the big difference between the revolution's constants and its changes, between the fundamental principles that are the revolution's core values and the phased objectives that might require flexibility and freedom of action.

The constants are: liberation of the national will; doing away with foreign control of the country; seeking social justice for the sake of society's cohesiveness; and siding with the overwhelming masses of the people.

This is at the national level. In the larger arena, the revolution's constants included Arab unity founded upon a unified objective and destiny. The revolution understood at an early stage the link between the fate of the Arab nation and that of the Third World. It backed firmly and strongly the struggle of the peoples of medium-sized and small countries for independence and progress in a world full of challenges and obstacles.

Brothers and sisters: These constants will remain at the forefront of our national objectives because they are part

of the Egyptian masses' conscience and because they are legitimate; no one has the right to doubt their fairness and soundness.

As for the changes, they are by nature variable and constantly developing in accordance with the movement of history and changing realities. Any attempt to force these changes into inert and rigid forms would in fact be a great insult to the July Revolution, ideology, and history because this will mean confusing the constants with the changes and the positive with the negative. It will also expose an inability to differentiate between strategic objectives and phased moves that might be dictated by national interest at a certain turning point in history.

For all these reasons, I saw that the situation required that we call for a national dialogue to include all groups capable of helping shape Egypt's major national objectives for the present and the future. This required us to take a comprehensive and farsighted look at the future in order to help break the shackles of the past, penetrate the present and future, and place the homeland's supreme interests above all other considerations.

We feel that the next century will bring us as many challenges as opportunities. Changes in the next century will occur at an unprecedented speed, and therefore we should not remain sitting where we are, waiting for what fate and time will bring us.

Mankind will witness a feverish race for development and progress. Only those armed with determination, vision, and courage will win this race, those who can combine thinking and theoretical excellence on the one hand with an aptitude for turning ideas and dreams into practical solutions and programs on the other. They alone are capable of responding to the masses' real needs, which will not remain captive to slogans overtaken by events.

I have a resolute faith that promoting democracy in terms of thought, principle, and practice in the Egypt of the future is a national duty. We must all excel in carrying out this duty during all phases of development. We must never think that this development has become mature and complete or that it can be advanced by one faction alone.

Democracy by its very nature should be the outcome of a comprehensive popular effort compatible with the changes being witnessed at all local, regional, and international levels. In other words, democracy should never be inert or stop or freeze, because it expresses a lively reality. Democracy cannot be divided up or applied only during this or that stage. We must define an appropriate course to guide the democratic movement.

Democracy is comprised of essence and substance. This does not presume certain forms inherited from the past or imported from abroad with the aim of intruding in an environment that does not provide democracy with fertile soil for progress and development.

Brothers and sisters: From this perspective, I have always been keen on expanding participation in the dialogue so that the door is wide open to anyone able to offer an idea or wishing to express a vision. Therefore, participation is not confined to a faction that supports a specific trend or is biased toward certain ideas. Constructive participation is always wide open to those with varying points of view regardless of differences in principles.

I have always believed that the overwhelming majority of the sons of this noble people, who are known for their nationalism and who have sacrificed for the sake of immortal Egypt, will always act on the nation's behalf if they are given a real opportunity. Hence, I clearly and unambiguously highlighted these goals in my speech at the opening session of the National Dialogue Congress during the last week of June. I called on representatives of all social forces and political trends and on cultural and intellectual figures to present their ideas and express their hopes for Egypt in the 21st century.

I expressed the hope that this free and sincere dialogue will be committed to the supreme national interest, free of selfishness, and above party interests and the logic of self-gain. Let everyone compete in such a dialogue. We are all Egyptians enjoying equal rights and duties and are committed to safeguarding the homeland's present and future interests.

The Congress was held on 25 June amid a good and positive atmosphere that gives rise to hope. It was clear right from the start that the majority of participants had come to the hall of dialogue and deliberations armed with the desired spirit—a spirit of open-mindedness—and a sincere desire to contribute to promoting national action at this critical stage of history through which Egypt and the world are passing.

The national dialogue, with the presence of all political and intellectual forces and trends, presented a near consensus. Key figures of various parties and constitutional institutions, leading intellectuals, university professors, members of the Specialized National Councils, experts from various research centers, journalists, writers, members of various syndicates and professional associations, representatives of agricultural cooperatives, businessmen, and representatives of womens' and youth organizations attended the Congress.

With this broad base, the national dialogue reflected the political, intellectual, and social fabric of this nation and fulfilled, to a large extent, hopes pinned on it for bringing together the major strands of today's Egyptian society. This bright picture is not dimmed by the fact that some people refused, from the first moment, to attend. Their refusal to come to the conference probably reflects their desire to impose minority opinions, opinions that we must nevertheless recognize and listen to.

It is neither logical nor acceptable, however, to let the views of the minority override those of the vast majority,

particularly if we recall that the latter did not set preconditions for the dialogue. This would be a remarkable contradiction in the values and practices of democracy, and a reversal of its essence and roots.

At this point, we have to state that we do not deny the right of those who took such a position to act as they did for whatever reasons. These are matters of belief. Every citizen has the right to take, unchallenged and unrestricted, any position he deems appropriate.

We have followed with great interest the discussions in the Congress and its political, economic, social, and cultural committees. We were very satisfied with the objectivity and positive spirit that marked the discussions, the readiness to address variant views, the willingness to explore various positions and motives, and the lack of prejudice and intolerance. An opinion should be judged by its content and merit, not by who voiced it and who backed it.

We are all in the same boat. The Egyptian people will never break up into disconnected factions and rival groups. I am pleased to say that the spirit in which the dialogue was conducted was itself a tribute to all participants without exception. Our work is by its nature a collective endeavor. Solo performances and isolationist attitudes are counterproductive.

You may have noticed that I did not submit to the Congress any papers or specific proposals but merely presented my general impression of the goals of the Congress and the dialogue.

I did this intentionally, so that all the participants would feel completely free to tackle any point of their choosing without being restricted by preconceptions and hampered by sensitivities. My goal was that the dialogue, in its course and results, should express the true convictions of the participants.

Likewise, you perhaps noticed that the representatives of the majority party were not burdened with orders from above or restricted to certain viewpoints. They were free to express their views, present their ideas, follow the sole guidance of their conscience, and act upon their experience and knowledge. Their ultimate loyalty will remain to Egypt, our beloved country.

Discussions conducted in the various committees of the Congress demonstrated the need to explore others' ideas and solicit their opinions instead of making wild assumptions that are frequently wrong and prejudiced.

For this reason, the dialogue provided an opportunity to learn about the nation's real opinions, viewpoints, and stances and reveal their background and the factors that caused them to be formed and formulated. While not belittling past attempts to hold such a dialogue in periods of different circumstances, it can be objectively said that the method in which the dialogue was conducted by the last Congress and its committees was an unprecedented event. At the very least it was a very advanced step that comprised all existing legal parties and trends and did not impose restrictions on freedom of thought and speech from beginning to end.

The people who participated in the dialogue could feel that all their roles were required and that their participation was necessary at this crucial turning point in which the world is striding toward a new century teeming with hopes and dreams as well as with fears and challenges.

It was obvious that this dialogue would lead to a positive result with constructive recommendations and proposals addressing a large part of the political, economic, social, and cultural aspects of our life. The dialogue touched many aspects of Egyptian life, discussing in depth the concerns of every Egyptian citizen eager to safeguard his homeland's and his nation's interests. It left out no issue.

The National Dialogue Congress' recommendations and proposals can visibly contribute to the national endeavor and provide a worthwhile perspective that will be examined and appreciated for the sake of the public good.

The dialogue was a civilized exercise that fulfilled many of the hopes pinned on it. There is still room for additions and development in a way responsive to our growing needs and new circumstances. This makes it necessary to leave the door open to further efforts and contributions, particularly in planning for the future with its broad horizons and endless requirements; contributions from our young people in particular, who will shoulder most of the country's responsibilities in a few years.

This is our responsibility toward the nation, the homeland for which we are willing to sacrifice ourselves. This is the pledge and commitment we make before God and the public: endless work for the sake of God and homeland, consistent reconstruction efforts, and persistent national endeavor.

This is how one generation makes way for another: Egypt's youth is renewed, and the flame of struggle is passed on to fresh young arms and enlightened minds. The flame burns on.

This is how the efforts for progress are unified and the links of our national history are integrated. We neither deny the past, neglect the present, nor fail to meet the future.

Brothers, sisters: The July Revolution will live on in Egyptian and Arab hearts and minds, in the consciences of hundreds of millions struggling in the Third World, and in the minds of free people everywhere.

The principles, noble objectives, and great triumphs of the July Revolution will become immortal. They blazed at a time when most Third World nations suffered under the yoke of oppression and enslavement.

The July Revolution will live through the ages as a fresh memory of a great Egyptian event that opened a new age and enshrined every Egyptian's basic right to progress and development. The revolution, molded in struggle, with its capacity for defiance and confrontation and its vital ability to renew and correct itself, will remain a constant lesson to future Egyptian generations.

The glorious July Revolution will live on as a unique example of a bloodless revolution, representing the creative resources of millions of people in a climate of pride and human dignity and seeking a better future for our dear country.

Peace and God's mercy be with you. [applause]

Writer Views Foreign Financing of Terror

NC2207071594 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 15 Jul 94 pp 1, 3

[Editorial by Ibrahim Nafi': "Terrorism and the Drying Up of its Sources at Home and Abroad"]

[Text] Our fight against terrorism is not over, despite the Egyptian security forces' spectacular success in destroying its local leaders and controlling most—if not all—of its remnants and misguided elements abroad. While the wave of black terrorism that tried to destabilize the Egyptian people and ruin their livelihood has ebbed and even stopped, the remnants of its fleeing leaders abroad—driven wild because they cannot achieve their objective—have been futilely trying to persuade their masters and the Western press that they have not breathed their last.

In an earlier article I referred to a telephone conversation tapped by the alert security forces. The call was made from abroad by one of those individuals who have renounced their own nation and their religion's true values. He was speaking with a terrorist who had fallen into the security forces' hands, begging him to do anything—anything, no matter how inhuman—against any target "to tell the world that we are still here." These were his very words.

Thank God the misguided leader's appeal was not fulfilled, nor will it be. The troops of black terrorism who received instructions and financing to implement their filthy operations against the peaceable people have fallen one by one. Many young men who discovered the vileness of their leaders abroad returned to their senses, exercised self-criticism, and found how misled they had been by false ideas and lies. They have repented and, of their own free will, have asked to return penitently to the embrace of the forgiving Egyptian nation. The telephone call made by the misguided terrorist, bewildered in a foreign land, unable to believe that his dreams and the dreams of his wandering colleagues are over, should make us heed an important fact.

We have spoken much about drying up the sources of extremism and terrorism at home. The sources are many. They comprise social and economic conditions that can easily affect young people who are not truly armed with sound religious values and who are easy prey to the extremism trap. They also include some irresponsible media activities that encourage a climate of extremism and a particular negligence in the sphere of proper religious advocacy that should correct ideas and save young people from falling into the hands of the terrorist demons who unscrupulously exploit them to achieve their political objectives.

In this article I add a new source, the last source: This is the assistance provided by foreign parties and organizations to terrorism in Egypt through financing, ideology, and false fatwas [religious rulings]. Some of them are public organizations operating in several neighboring countries that perform charity and religious work but also back extremists and terrorists. The leaders of the misguided terrorists also blackmail these organizations by asking them to finance the jihad of the "soldiers of righteousness" against the "tyrannical" powers in Egypt.

Financing is necessary for the terrorists' criminal schemes, to buy weapons, explosives, and getaway vehicles, to rent hideouts, manufacture local bombs, prepare forged documents to protect members from arrest, and to provide spending money for convicts, detainees, and their families. The financing comes from domestic and foreign sources.

Domestic sources of finance are represented in donations and membership fees. Donations are collected on the pretext of building mosques. Another source of income is terrorist operations such as jewelry shop robberies.

The foreign finance sources are basically represented in the following:

Donations collected by the organization's fugitive leaders abroad under the pretext of assisting the persecuted Muslims in the country.

Supporting the intelligence services that back these extremist elements.

A share of the salaries of the group's members who work in Arab or foreign countries.

The alms money the organization members collect from some businessmen in the Arab states, institutions, and Islamic societies.

Some extremist leaders in the Arab states, such as Usamah Bin-Ladin, who was stripped of his Saudi citizenship, and 'Abd-al-Hamid al-Zindani from Yemen, have assumed the responsibility of providing the necessary funds for the training, accommodation, and transportation of the group members as well as for equipping training camps in some Arab states.

I want to reaffirm President Mubarak's remarks in one of his recent speeches to the Egyptian people that Egypt makes a clear distinction between the actions of such

organizations and the regimes in their countries and deals with them on the basis of a natural right to defend stability and security, no matter what countries they are and how close the relations are between Egypt and the countries' rulers and peoples. When it comes to its stability and supreme interests, Egypt cannot be tolerant or lenient with anyone, especially as the regimes in these countries do not normally approve of these organizations' policies toward Egypt or any other state. Perhaps these regimes are also suffering these organizations and their extremist policies more than we can imagine or estimate.

Egypt has objected to the method in which assistance from charitable organizations in one Arab country was provided to Egyptians without going through formal channels and to these charitable organizations' spending the donations in areas considered by Egypt to support extremism. Egypt has said it does not object to such donations but they should be channeled through an official body agreed upon between the two countries so that they might achieve their humanitarian purpose and not be used to support extremism.

This issue came to the surface when Egyptian security bodies recently arrested an Arab man belonging to one of these charities who was found with bank checks to finance what these charities call charitable work in Egypt. The objective of this work is to distribute funds to the children of those who were killed in the clashes between the police and the extremist groups and who are called "the sons of the martyrs." Egypt's security forces arrested this man in his capacity as someone who finances the extremists' operations. The charities in his country regarded this action as some sort of harassment of their work in Egypt. They also regarded it as a signal of the Egyptian side's desire to stop their charitable work and activities. A senior Egyptian official with whom this case was raised explained that Egypt rejects only the support for extremism and welcomes any contribution that does not serve the objectives of extremism.

This is a principled stance by Egypt, which is not subject to argument or bargaining with anyone. The Egyptian people's stability comes above all other considerations and protection of the lives of the innocent is above any bargaining.

If some of those owners of the private establishments who belong to these charities think they can pressure Egypt by trying to end the contracts of some Egyptians working in their establishments as a means of protesting the arrest of the representative distributing funds to the "sons of the martyrs," as they call them, then we tell them that these Egyptians working for you are contributing more effort and work than the wages you pay them. You would not have concluded contracts with them to work for you had you not needed them, their efforts, expertise, and their famous loyalty to their work. Work relations are governed by the laws of interest and are not affected by emotions. You are "experts" in putting your personal interests above all other considerations. This behavior will be futile. Egypt must ultimately protect its security regardless of all other considerations.

There remains the issue of these terrorist leaders dispersed abroad who benefit from the funds they receive from those whose sympathies are either deliberate or well-intentioned. These leaders are sending the crumbs of the financial support they receive from these establishments and from some Arab figures—who are known to support terrorism and extremism—to the elements inside the country who have been brought under control.

The question resurfaces: Is there no legal way of pursuing them and punishing them for their crimes? Egyptian diplomacy has had considerable success in its efforts with the Pakistani Government, evident in Pakistan's expulsion of the terrorist leaders from its territory. Saudi Arabia rescinded the citizenship of Usamah Bin-Ladin, a financier of Egyptian extremists and terrorists who lives in Sudan.

Still, can we not also pursue some fugitive leaders—who can be counted on the fingers of one hand—who use political asylum in several U.S. and European countries as a shield?

I urge professors of international law to discuss this issue and suggest solutions. Before being a crime against any particular government, terrorism is a crime against humanity. Europe and the United States condemn terrorism and are strict about boycotting the countries they accuse of supporting it. How can their laws permit asylum for those who have supervised and run the hideous terrorist crimes in Egypt in the past two years?

What legal methods can help Egypt make those criminals accountable for their crimes against their people and country?

Drying up the sources of terrorism should not be limited to domestic sources; it must extend to its sources abroad. Egypt has waged a renowned battle on both fronts but the international community and democratic European and American Governments must aid its efforts.

Egypt could have pursued these people abroad by illegal methods and through intelligence operations. It could have hurt them. But Mubarak's Egypt is a state of law and democracy and it cannot allow itself to resort to such illegal means even in its war against the black terrorism that targets children, old people, women, and innocent men. What is the world community waiting for before it assists Egypt in its war against black terror?

The battle continues.

Columnist Sees 'Dictatorial' Practices

NC2007105894 Cairo AKHBAR AL-YAWM in Arabic 16 Jul 94 p 20

[Mustafa Amin's "Idea" column]

[Text] We are neither a dictatorship nor a democratic state; we are a political cocktail, a mixture of both, with much individual rule and little popular rule. Appointing village heads, for example, is a dictatorial practice and so is maintaining the existing Constitution. The continuing application of infamous laws is more than a dictatorship and the return to the party-list election system is a return to a system rejected by the people.

One of our problems is that we consider the people to be inadequate when it comes to ruling or choosing their representatives in parliament. We choose representatives for them and we appoint their deputies. We view the people as sick and force them to take their medicine and punish them for crimes we have committed. We force this generation to pay for mistakes it did not commit. This generation, for example, is not to blame for the heavy defeat of 1967. Yet it is supposed to pay for the mistakes of those who pushed us into a war without planning, study, or being ready.

True, we are paying for our applause and chants for the idols we worshipped and for believing that bread is more important than freedom. The days have proven that it is freedom that brings bread, not the other way round. The experience of the former Soviet Union provides the proof: It had the strongest of armies and the poorest of people. It reached the moon but not the hearts of the people. Its empire fell without a single bullet being fired at it, as if it was a paper house.

No nation has any real interest in having strong rulers with a weak people, where rulers speak and people keep their mouths shut, where the rulers are powerful masters and the citizens are defeated slaves. Depriving a people of its rights means depriving it of the backbone of its steadfastness and stability and rendering it unable to face storms.

Democracy is the state's life insurance policy. It is the fortress that will not fall even if every citadel collapses. We want all people to adhere to their right to freedom, justice, democracy, and human rights. This is their right to life. Relinquishing any of these rights means surrendering to the ambitions of foreign and local invaders. It means capitulation, political slavery, and national suicide.

We must know that genuine patriotism means sacrifice, belief, and continuous work. It is every citizen's right to live a dignified life and to feel a master in his own country, with pride, the will, and an opinion on how this country should be ruled.

Appeals Committee Upholds Ban on 'Schindler's List'

NC2107132494 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1245 GMT 21 Jul 94

[Text] Cairo, 21 Jul (MENA)—The appeals committee of the Higher Arts and Culture Council has upheld all the decisions made by the Central Board of Censorship which vets all artistic products to refuse the license for screening the U.S. film "Schindler's List" which has raised a lot of protests.

The appeals committee's decision was made after viewing the film several times, reading the Arabic translation of the script, holding discussions with the production company, and seeking the advice of some experts in the film production field.

Correction to Musa Urges Diplomatic Contacts

NC2107122794

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "Musa Reportedly Urges Diplomatic Contacts With Iraq," published in the 21 July Near East & South Asia DAILY REPORT, page 17: Headline, make read: Musa Reportedly Urges Diplomatic Contacts With Iran Column two, first paragraph, only sentence, make read: ...said Egypt and Iran should resume diplomatic- ...(changing name of country from Iraq to Iran).

Morocco

King Chairs Meeting With Party Leaders

LD2107134594 Rabat MAP in English 1226 GMT 21 Jul 94

[Text] Rabat, Jul. 21 (MAP)—King Hassan II chaired Wednesday [20 July] at the royal palace of Skhirat (30 km south of here) a work session with leaders of political parties.

The session was attended by Maati Bouabid, chairman of the Constitutional Union [word indistinct], Mohamed Yazghi, first interim secretary of the Socialist Union of Popular Forces (USFP), Mohand Laensar, secretary general of the Popular Movement (MP), M'hamed Boucetta, secretary general of the Istiqlal Party (PI), Ahmed Osman, chairman of the National Rally of independents (RNI), Mahjoubi Aherdane, secretary general of the National Popular Movement (MNP), Arsalane el-Jadidi, secretary general of the National Democrat Party (PND), Ali Yata, secretary general of the Party for Progress and Socialism [words indistinct] and Mohamed Ben Said Ait Idder, secretary general of the Organization for Democratic and Popular Action (OADP).

The work session was attended by Prime Minister and Foreign Affairs and Cooperation Minister Abdellatif Filali, state Minister for the Interior and Information Driss Basri and the sovereign's advisors Ahmed Reda Guedira, Mohamed Awad and Abdelhadi Boutaleb.

USFP Hails King's Pardon of Political Prisoners

LD2107130694 Rabat MAP in English 1237 GMT 21 Jul 94

[Text] Rabat, July 21 (MAP)—The Socialist Union of Popular Forces (USFP/leftist opposition) welcomed 'with great satisfaction and joy' the royal decision to

grant pardon to all political prisoners and those exiled and congratulates the Moroccan sovereign and people for the wise initiative. A statement published by the USFP Political Bureau underlines the significance and the range of the royal decision which is evidence to a firm will to turn the page of the past and open new perspectives for a new Morocco, a country of democracy and respect of human rights.

The USFP also voices hope that this important initiative, the first of its kind in Morocco, will be followed by a final settlement of the issue of the missing people and the resolution of moral and financial problems that will face the released prisoners and those who will return from exile. The USFP also wishes that this move will be followed by the continuation of political and constitutional reforms and by the consolidation of democracy and the respect of public freedoms.

For its part, the executive bureau of the Labor Democratic Confederation (CDT/close to the Socialist Union of Popular Forces) hailed the royal decision as a 'turning point full of significance and human values'. The royal decision, which ushers in a new promising era of [words indistinct] and national dialog, will allow for the mobilization of all energies to build a modern Morocco on a [word indistinct] release [word indistinct] rational basis, [words indistinct].

Release of Detainees Viewed

LD2207112494 Paris Radio France International in French 1830 GMT 21 Jul 94

[Text] A first in Morocco: until now the authorities claimed that there were no political prisoners in the Kingdom, and yet they have just released 424 of them. Muriel Pomponne reports:

[Begin Pomponne recording] When he received the list of the 424 people supplied by the Human Rights Consultative Council the King said that their release was going to turn a page. One of the opposition parties, the USFP [Socialist Union of Popular Forces], even said that this gesture could be the herald of an era of confidence, freedom and a state based on law. It is true that the human rights organizations—even though they regret the absence of 15 or so names and even though officially only 11 cases have been described as being prisoners of conscience—are not hiding a certain degree of satisfaction.

The longest-serving prisoner, Mohamed Khiar, imprisoned since 1982, has been released, as have Ahmed Belaichi, a satirical cartoonist, Mohamed Malakat, a member of an opposition party, but also Islamist activists and Marxist activists. The opposition political parties had made the release of these prisoners the first of their conditions for a resumption of dialogue with the government, but this improvement in the human rights situation is also due to the pressure of opinion of a public which no longer remains silent, and Morocco's desire to appear respectable abroad. Having said this, all those who do not acknowledge Morocco's sovereignty over the Sahara are excluded from this measure, nor is there anything for the political exiles, numbering 100 or so. The question of compensation for those who have been held secretly has also to be settled, and above all it remains to be discovered what has become of about 90 missing people. [end recording]

The Association for the Defense of Human Rights in Morocco believes that there are still about 200 of these people in exile and those who are missing. Fouad Abdel Moulni, furthermore is not at all satisfied with the response from Rabat concerning those who are missing, as he told Christophe Boisbouvier:

In the statements of the Human Rights Consultative Council we have heard that investigations, inquiries, searches were continuing with regard to those who are missing. The Council acknowledges that some of these people have been missing for decades and it is unacceptable that in this day and age we should be told yet again, as we were told a year ago, as we were told ten years ago, that investigations are continuing. These people absolutely must recover their freedom immediately, or we should know what happened to them, and all the consequences which should ensue as a result should be brought to bear.

Interior Minister Meets Press Representatives

LD2207023494 Rabat RTM Television Network in Arabic 2030 GMT 21 Jul 94

[Excerpt] Within the framework of regular meetings devoted to discussing issues concerning information and the press, Mr. Driss Basri, minister of interior and information, yesterday evening held a meeting with members of the bureau of the National Union of Moroccan Journalists. The meeting was attended by the editors of national newspapers.

On this occasion, Mohamed Larbi Lmasari, secretary general of the National Union of Moroccan Journalists, expressed feelings of deep satisfaction among the family of the national press, including all of the trends following the amnesty decision announced by his majesty the king during his birthday speech.

In his capacity as chairman of the follow up committee of the first forum on information and communication, Ali Yata, secretary general of the Progress and Socialism Party and editor of its daily AL-BAYANE, also spoke at the meeting. Mohamed al-Ash'ari, chairman of the Union of Moroccan Writers, and editors of the main national dailies present at the meeting expressed similar feelings regarding the royal amnesty and the annulment of the 1935 law, which meant the inauguration of a new era within the framework laying down the foundations for the state of justice and law.

The interior minister congratulated members of the family of the press on the feelings of pride they had shown, recalling the contents of the king's speech and his

address to the members of the Human Rights Consultative Council. He added that royal amnesty was not only aimed at turning a page of the past and responding to the aspirations of the civil society, but it also provided a further proof of his majesty's determination to open a new era during which emphasis is to be put on social and economic rights of the individual and put an end to the accusations by anti-Moroccan quarters abroad.

During the discussions that followed the meeting, Basri answered questions by [correspondents] Mohamed Alaoui Mhamdi, Idrissi al-Kaytouni, Mohamed Oujar, Abd el-Hafid Rouissi, Younes Moujahid, Abdallah Bekkali, and Abdellatif Aouad with regard to the regular meeting of the follow up committee of the national forum on information and communication, the state's means to support the press, and the project of a higher council for information and communication—as well as questions related to various laws regulating the press, as stipulated in the public liberties law of 1958 and the professional press law. A great deal of emphasis was placed on the status of social welfare for journalists, such as health insurance, social security, pensions, and supplementary pensions.

In this regard, Basri called on the members of the National Union of Moroccan Journalists to carry out a sound study to reach an agreement between the government and the union on setting up a fund for social work for the people working in the media. Basri announced that his majesty's government decided to provide initial support in the amount of 3 million dirhams toward the setting up of this fund, awaiting the preparation of this agreement that would define the quotas for every party's contributions—namely, the state, owners of information establishments, and journalists. [passage omitted]

Algeria's Ait Ahmed Holds Talks With Party Leaders

LD2207132994 Rabat MAP in English 1310 GMT 22 Jul 94

[Text] Rabat, Jul 22 (MAP)—The future of the Arab Maghreb Union 'UMA', 'which currently undergoes a difficult juncture' topped talks held here between Secretary General of the Moroccan Istiqlal Party 'PI' M'hamed Boucetta and visiting leader of the Algerian Socialist Forces Front 'FFS' Hocine Ait Ahmed.

'AL ALAM' daily of the Istiqlal Party (nationalist/opposition), which reports the news this Friday [22 July], said Boucetta voiced the party's deep concern over the situation in Algeria. Hocine Ait Ahmed had also conferred with Mohamed el-Yazghi, first interim secretary of the Socialist Union of Popular Forces (USFP/opposition) and with Ahmed Osman, chairman of the National Rally of Independents (RNI/center).

The talks covered the [word indistinct] evolution of the situation in Algeria and ways to enhance relations between the FFS and Moroccan political parties.

Sudan

Foreign Minister Says Egypt Rejects Dialogue

EA2107192694 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 21 Jul 94

[Text] Foreign Minister Husayn Sulayman Abu-Salih informed the Council of Ministers' regular meeting yesterday about the state of the Egyptian-Sudanese relations. He said that Sudan's foreign relations are based on strengthening relations with all states of the world, particularly the neighboring Arab and Islamic states. The foreign minister added that Sudan is guided in its foreign policy by the comprehensive national strategy and by working to balance interests and principles. He referred to Egypt's delay in continuing with the dialogue, the entrenched nature of Egypt's occupation of Hala'ib, and the continuation of its media attacks in spite of Sudan's insistence that dialogue should continue. Dr. Abu-Salih explained that Sudan will notify all regional and international organizations about the intransigence of the Egyptian side which is rejecting dialogue and insisting on excesses that are detrimental to relations between the two countries.

Kuwait

Report on Confederation With Saudis Dismissed

LD2107121894 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic 1000 GMT 21 Jul 94

[Text] In response to a report by THE GUARDIAN newspaper on Tuesday [19 July] on the establishment of a joint committee to find a formula for a confederation between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, Information Minister Shaykh Sa'ud Nasir al-Sabah said that Kuwaiti-Saudi ties are historic. They are based on shared history, unlimited bilateral cooperation, and close ties between Kuwaiti Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah and King Fahd Bin-'Abd- al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, the custodian of the two holy mosques.

The information minister said that such deep-rooted and established ties contain all official, legal, and political frameworks and they cannot be realized by confederations or any other formulas. Information Minister Shaykh Sa'ud ended his statement by saying that constant contacts and coordination between the governments of both countries and the strong brotherly ties between the two people are food and water [sufficient] for any political formula. He stressed the State of Kuwait's keenness to strengthen and bolster ties with the sisterly Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in all fields to bring about security, stability, and happiness to the two brotherly people.

Rulers Reject Islamic Law Proposal

NC2107132294 Paris AFP in English 1217 GMT 21 Jul 94

[Text] Kuwait City, July 21 (AFP)—Kuwait's rulers have rejected plans to make Islamic law the main source of legislation in the country, the daily Al-Watan reported here Thursday [21 July].

The proposal was put forward by 39 of the 50 deputies in parliament last month, but the prime minister, Sa'ad al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, rejected it on behalf of the emir of Kuwait, Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, it said.

The deputies wanted to change article two of the constitution, which describes Shari'ah, or Islamic law, as "one of the sources of legislation" in Kuwait.

The emir has rejected similar proposals before.

The constitution can only be changed if two-thirds of deputies agree, but the emir still has the last word.

Yemen

Al-Jifri on Plans for Government-in-Exile

JN2107195394 Al-Dammam AL-YAWM in Arabic 18 Jul 94 p 1

[Report by Sa'ud al-Rayyis]

[Text] 'Abd al-Rahman al-Jifri [southern Yemen's "vice president"] has announced that preparations and coordination are under way to convene a meeting of southern Yemeni leaders, including 'Ali Salim al-Bid, to prepare for the declaration of a southern Yemeni government-in-exile. He said this government will include the members of the government that was declared in the south during the fighting with the northern forces in May.

In a telephone statement to AL-YAWM, he said the north Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih is seeking to dilute the cause of southern Yemen by delaying the meeting scheduled to be held between the two parts of Yemen in Paris on Thursday, 28 July.

Al-Jifri said present efforts focus on securing protection for more than 15,000 southern Yemenis whom Sanaa considers to be opposition members and seeks to arrest them. The efforts also focus on discussing future plans for southern Yemen.

Al-Jifri referred to the call made by Shaykh 'Abd-al-Majid al-Zindani [Yemeni Presidential Council member] to prosecute leaders of the Yemeni Socialist Party, and said at this stage those who are committing murders, stealing, and torturing Yemeni people should face trial. He added that al-Zindani is responsible for what is taking place in southern Yemen because the northern forces and the tribes, which we used to respect, continue to rob the state establishments such as ports, airports, and printing houses, in addition to killing Yemenis. He said these actions prove that the northern forces do not seek unity, and that they behave as invaders. He added, regrettably, what is going on now is seen by the whole world but no one cares about encroachment on southern Yemen.

North Seen Doubtful on Dialogue With South

MM2107154794 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 20 Jul 94 pp 1, 4

[Report by Jamal Khashuqji and Iqbal 'Abdallah: Sanaa Prefers That al-'Attas Be Replaced in Expected Meeting With al-Iryani"]

[Excerpt] Sanaa, Aden, Cairo, Paris, London, AL-HAYAH—'Abd-al-Malik Mansur, head of the Political and Foreign Relations Department of the General People's Congress, the party led by President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, yesterday played down the importance of the meeting intended to be held in Paris between Haydar al-'Attas, prime minister of the "Democratic Republic of Yemen", and Yemeni Planning Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani. He told AL-HAYAH: "We have heard about the meeting, but I cannot confirm that it will take place." He added: "We welcome dialogue with any Yemeni, even if he has harmed his country and the legitimate government. Yemen does not close its door to anyone." However, he pointed to "the need for the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] to specify its real representatives and reorganize itself if there is any desire for a

national dialogue." This appeared to be a clear indication of Sanaa's wish to replace al-'Attas.

He pointed to the People's Congress' intention to call "for implementation of the parties law, because all the parties, including the coalition parties, are legally unlicensed. And the YSP refused to implement the law banning partisanship in the Army. I recall that Salim Salih (assistant secretary general of the YSP) said that implementing the law means denying the YSP the 17,000 members who made up the party's former army."

In London Lakhdar Brahimi, the UN secretary general's envoy to Yemen, stressed that he is continuing his mission to find a lasting peaceful political settlement in Yemen, and that both he and Dr. Butrus-Ghali are very keen to achieve that. [passage omitted]

Appeal Made for Asylum for Southern Army Remnants

MM2107122994 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 19 Jul 94 pp 1, 4

[Report by Faysal Makram, Iqbal 'Abdallah, and Muhammad 'Allam: "Al-Jifri Urges Oman to End 'Tragedy' of 5,700 Military Men From South Yemen Army"]

[Excerpt] London, Sanaa, Aden, Cairo, AL-HAYAH—The Yemeni Reform Group led by Shaykh 'Abdallah Bin-Husayn al-Ahmar, speaker of the Yemeni House of Representatives, reopened its offices in Aden yesterday. They were closed by the Socialist Party when the war broke out in Yemen.

Meanwhile 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Jifri, deputy chairman of the Presidential Council in the "Democratic Republic of Yemen" [DRY], has spoken about a tragedy suffered by some 5,700 individuals from the Southern armed forces and their families. He called for an end to this tragedy. In a statement to AL-HAYAH al-Jifri, whom AL-HAYAH contacted from London, revealed that about 700 elite elements from the Southern armed forces are aboard a ship off Salalah. He appealed to the Omani authorities to help and allow them to disembark there, "because their conditions are tragic, especially as the ship, which belongs to the South Yemeni navy, is used for moving equipment and has no facilities suitable for human beings." Al-Jifri said that he "also hopes that the Omani authorities will help to improve the living conditions of some 500 military men and their families in the Shahan area."

He said: "Sultan Qabus has always impressed us with his understanding of Yemenis' circumstances. And we have never forgotten his great stances during the crisis and his government's position at the Security Council. And while we also appreciate the Sultanate of Oman's current circumstances, we hope that the group aboard the ship will be allowed to disembark and that the groups present in Shahan will be helped to improve their living conditions."

Al-Jifri confirmed that the statement issued the day before yesterday by the Presidential Council of the DRY had been approved by 'Ali Salim al-Bid, chairman of the Council and secretary general of the Socialist Party. He said that it confirms that al-Bid is continuing to shoulder his responsibilities. [passage omitted]

MiG's, Weapons, YSP Officials Reportedly Return

JN2107101994 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1030 GMT 20 Jul 94

[Text] Sources in Sanaa have said that the Yemeni Government has begun to receive back the weapons the rebels and their leaders took with them when they fled the country, after the countries that provided them with refuge agreed to hand over the weapons and military hardware to the Yemeni Government. The sources added that among the reclaimed weapons were helicopters, MiG aircraft, battleships, and armored personnel carriers.

The Qatari News Agency quoted these sources as saying that Yemeni planes have left for Djibouti to bring home military personnel and officials of the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP]. The agency indicated that a large number of the military personnel who sought refuge in the Omani-Yemeni border area have actually returned to Yemen.

Cost of War Damage to Aden Examined

NC2107211994 Paris AFP in English 1422 GMT 21 Jul 94

[Report by Mohammed Attar]

[Text] Aden, Yemen, July 21 (AFP)—More than four billion dollars will be needed to rebuild the southern port city of Aden, ravaged by the two-month Yemeni civil war, an economist said here Thursday [21 July].

"The damage to Aden is enormous and we will need more than four billion dollars of investments to remedy the situation," 'Abdallah 'Ali Sa'id told AFP.

Repairs are still being carried out on Aden's oil refinery, the only one in the south of the country, and it should be operational "in about a week," Deputy Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Wahhab al-'Ansi said.

Before it was badly damaged by attacking northern warplanes, the refinery used to produce 140,000 barrels per day. Oil is a vital source of wealth for Yemen, one of the world's poorest countries.

But repairs to other vital installations such as the city's airport and harbour and even water supplies are proceeding more slowly.

Aden came under an intense month-long siege from northern troops loyal to President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, who kept up a relentless artillery and rocket barrage of the city until it finally fell on July 7, ending the war which began on May 5.

Salih's forces smashed those of southern breakaway leader and former vice president 'Ali Salim al-Bid.

One Aden resident told AFP: "Our main concern is to put this war behind us for good and to see the government fulfil its promises to rebuild and rehabilitate Aden."

There has been no official estimate of the total expected repair bill, but independent experts in Sanaa have said it could top eight billion dollars.

Water and food supplies remain a major worry for Aden's 500,000 residents.

Water supplies were briefly restored to the city centre late Wednesday, and then cut off again on Thursday.

Engineers said there would be frequent cuts until the main pumping station at Bi'r Nasir had been properly repaired. Local authorities said the work should be finished within the next few days.

The station, about 15 kilometres (nine miles) north of the city, was badly damaged at the beginning of June.

Since then residents have had to queue daily at the city's 40 or so wells for supplies.

Aden governor Taha Ghanim renewed an appeal to residents on Wednesday to "cooperate with restoring law and order."

Security agents and military police have been taking charge of law and order in the city during the northern army's withdrawal.

Residents said the Sanaa government's decision to block off roads into the city for 12 days from last Saturday had helped to contain a wave of looting which broke out just after Aden's capture.

It had also helped to stabilise food prices, even though only small quantities could be found on the black market.

Ghanim also called on residents to hand in their weapons, after Sanaa banned the carrying of firearms.

Sources said a large cache of military materiel, including six Scud missiles which had belonged to the southern forces, were found Wednesday in a cemetery in the Crater district of the old town.

Southern Intellectuals Reportedly Harassed

MM2107153594 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 19 Jul 94 pp 1, 4

[Reports by 'Abdallah Hammudah and Salih Qallab: "News of Acts of Resistance in Southern Areas; Sanaa: Arrest of Participants in Seminar on War"]

[Text] London—In a telephone statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT from Abu-Dhabi, highly-placed South Yemeni sources have stated that a large number of Yemeni intellectuals were harassed by the political security organs and at least some of them were arrested for participating in a political seminar held on the topic "The Yemeni Republic After the War—The Phase of Construction and Reform." The arrests were made under the state of emergency now in force in Yemen.

There have also been reports of "limited" resistance operations against the Northern forces in al-Shu'ayb and al-Dali' in Lahij Governorate, and also in Shabwah and al-Mahrah Governorates.

According to these reports there is a concentration of Southern forces in some areas in al-Mahrah, and night raids have been launched against the positions of Northern forces which have not yet tightened their grip on these areas. According to sources in Sanaa, large numbers of Southern military personnel have begun returning from the al-Mazyunah area on the border with Oman to Hadramaut and Aden, as have some of the forces which fled to Djibouti.

The sources say that the aim of the harassment and arrest of participants in the seminar, sponsored by the Sanaa English language weekly YEMEN TIMES, was to tighten the Yemeni leadership's grip in the face of any debate on the responsibility for the war at this stage. But the resistance reports link this to the looting, liquidation, and arrests in Aden and other Southern areas, reinforcing the view that what is happening is "occupation or annexation in the name of unity."

The seminar, held last Thursday, was attended by Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Saqqaf, professor of economics at Sanaa University and editor of the YEMEN TIMES; Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Tarb, adviser at the civil service ministry; Dr. Balqis al-Hadrani, lecturer at Sanaa University; Yahya 'Abd-al-Raqib al-Jubayhi, information director in the prime minister's office; Muhammad 'Abduh Sa'id, a businessman; Ahmad 'Ali al-Wida'i, a lawyer; 'Abdallah Sa'd, director of the newspaper AL-SHURA; 'Abd-al-Samad al-Qulaysi, adviser at the Yemeni Research and Studies Center; Tahir Shamsan; Ahmad al-Sufi, journalist at the prime minister's office; Nu'man Qa'id Sayf, a journalist working for the newspaper AL-TAJAMMU'; and 'Izz-al-Din Sa'id, editorial secretary at the government newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH in Ta'izz.

A relative of one of the participants said that at least four of them were in detention. He named them as Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Saqqaf, 'Izz-al-Din Sa'id, Ahmad al-Sufi, and Nu'man Qa'id Sayf. AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT tried to contact Dr. al-Saqqaf at home and at his office, but there was no reply. The home of Yahya 'Abd-al-Raqib al-Jubayhi was contacted and it transpired that he had lunched with his family and then gone to his office, but then there was no reply from his phone at the prime minister's office.

Security sources in Sanaa have denied arresting or harassing any of the participants in the seminar. They said that the telephone lines with the outside world were

open and that anyone wishing to talk to them could do so, but AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT's attempts to contact them produced no result.

Another Yemeni source gave a different contradictory explanation, saying that "they were arrested for interrogation on a charge of violating the state of emergency laws in that they severely criticized the war and defended the [Yemeni] Socialist Party [YSP] and 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Jifri [southern "vice president"], whom they saw as a patriotic leader who should not be underestimated."

As regards armed resistance operations, Southern sources have stated that they were just an expression of popular rejection after the acts of looting and plunder, and that their effectiveness was still limited because the Southern leadership has not yet made a decision to draw up a specific plan to deal with the situation. The meeting now reportedly in preparation was expected to do this.

Sanaa sources responded by saying that the southern military personnel who had fled to the Omani border or Djibouti were beginning to return to Hadramaut and other Yemen governorates. They added that Djibouti had agreed to give back the arms in its possession, including the naval units and helicopters.

They added that a dialogue was going on with some YSP leaders "as an assistance from Sanaa to help the YSP organize itself," and to help it hold its general congress and elect a new leadership. But senior YSP sources have denied this and stressed that these were a continuation of the Yemeni leadership's attempts to split the party.

As regards the acts of looting and occupation of homes in Aden and other Southern areas, sources from [former] President 'Ali Nasir Muhammad's group have denied the group's responsibility for that but admitted that some of its supporters returned to their homes which had been seized by others after the 13 January 1986 incidents.

The sources also said that cars carrying stolen goods were heading for Sanaa and the northern governorates, and not the governorates of Abyan and Shabwah—which indicated that the culprits were not those who had broken away from the YSP in the conflict which resulted in the party's present leadership's assumption of power in the South and 'Ali Nasir's exit.

Iranian Minister Meets Presidental Council Leader

LD1907203794 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1930 GMT 19 Jul 94

[Text] Hoseyn Sheykholeslam our country's Deputy Foreign Minister for Arab and African countries, met and conferred with 'Ali Abdallah Salih, head of the Presidential Council of Yemen, in Sanaa on Tuesday [19 July] afternoon. He arrived in Sanaa on Tuesday morning to deliver Iranian humanitarian aid to the people of Yemen.

At the meeting, while expressing congratulations and gladness about the termination of the war and the failure of conspiracies against the unity of Yemen, Sheykholeslam said the Islamic Republic of Iran has come to assist in solving the problems of the Muslim nation of Yemen and in the post-war reconstruction of this country.

While thanking Iran for its humanitarian aid to Yemen and our country's stance in support of the unity of Yemen, Salih said: We believe that the expansion of ties between the two countries is beneficial to security and the establishment of peace and stability in the region.

Iran Says Ready To Help With Reconstruction

LD2107175294 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 21 Jul 94

[Text] Speaking in the capital of Yemen, Sanaa, a spokesman for our country's Ministry of Construction Jihad said Iran is prepared to help Yemen in the implementation of economic, agricultural, and technical projects.

The ministry's director general of the cooperation bureau said his ministry has sufficient experience and capacity in the fields of expanding electricity networks, fishing, agriculture, and exploitation of natural sources.

Meanwhile, a medical delegation from the Islamic Republic of Iran continued to treat people wounded in the Yemen civil war in the Aba [as heard] province and the city of Sanaa and vaccinated Yemeni children.

Two nine-member Iranian medical teams are presently in Yemen.

Saddam Said Increasing Production in Arms Factories

LD2107201194 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1758 GMT 21 Jul 94

[Text] Vienna, 21 Jul—An Iraqi opposition group said that the head of the Iraqi regime, Saddam Husayn, had issued instructions last June to factories producing traditional weapons to work around the clock without stopping for any reason whatsoever.

In a communique issued here by the office of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq [SAIRI], a copy of which was received by KUNA, the SAIRI office in Vienna said: The Iraqi Ministry of Industry and Military Industry is doing its utmost to provide primary materials, the technical means, and manpower to increase the production of arms to the maximum capacity.

The office added that those instructions came in the form of official memorandums read aloud directly by senior army officers and directors of factories.

It pointed out that a paragraph of the instructions pointed out explicitly to the fact that the Iraqi regime is experiencing a sensitive stage for which preparation should be made by increasing productivity and improving the production to the optimum levels.

[Passage omitted] The Iraqi regime is still linked by secret armament ties to some countries and regimes including the Republic of Serbia with which the Iraqi regime exchanged visits and military delegations, the latest of which was the Serbian military delegation, which visited Baghdad in 1993.

Paper Rejects U.S. Statements on Sanctions

JN2107115494 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0930 GMT 21 Jul 94

[Text] Baghdad, 21 Jul (INA)—The newspaper AL-THAWRAH has reiterated that the U.S. determination to force the perpetuation of the extremely heinous and unfair sanctions has failed to achieve the objectives of Washington, its allies, and its stooges. As a matter of fact, this has only exposed it to the world as a country that pursues double standards and has shown its ulterior motives.

In an analysis published today, the paper, which speaks for the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, adds that the U.S. determination to keep the sanctions in place as a factor of pressure and a tool of intimidation and leverage is meant to achieve several objectives, which are now obvious. The United States wants to tighten its noose around the region in order to maintain its theft of the region's oil wealth and other resources. Additionally, it seeks to isolate, besiege, and destroy all centers of excellence, renaissance, and liberation in the region.

The paper notes that Washington has been endeavoring to maintain tension in the region in order to weaken and debilitate the entire Arab region in general, and Iraq in particular, because it is the healthiest and brightest Arab country enjoying the most stunning stamina, the one most capable of confronting criminal schemes.

AL-THAWRAH says: It is not peculiar for the United States to reiterate, recklessly and stubbornly, its desire to perpetuate the embargo and maintain the depletion of the region's resources to influence the Iraqi decision-making process. But, it remains to be said that this desire only reflects reckless U.S. wishful thinking.

In its analysis, the paper notes Washington's claims that Iraq's return to the oil market would create confusion in the region, arguing that Washington does not want to frankly acknowledge that Iraq's return to the oil market would deal a painful blow to its agents, and consequently to the ongoing theft of the oil revenues earned by the subservient countries that revolve in the U.S. orbit.

The paper concludes by saying: Iraq is not a new country to the oil market. In any case, its oil resources are being properly kept and protected, because they are the property of the people and the nation. They will never be Washington's property; hence, the spirit of endurance and firmness and the increasingly enhanced Iraqi jihad.

Reasons for UINC's Failures Examined

MM2007131194 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 13 Jul 94 p 17

[Article by Jasim Muhammad Ma'ruf: "I Am Not With Shabib or Against al-Jalabi"]

[Text] I can almost confirm that Talib Shabib's article on the "Ideas" page in AL-HAYAH on 18 June 1994 under the title "The Iraqi Crisis and the Quest for a Different Solution", and Ahmad al-Jalabi's comment on the same page on 25 June 1994 under the title "Iraqi Crisis Expressions, and...Indulgence in the Mirage", were both written in the light of developments related to the objective circumstances that contributed to the establishment of the congress.

The two articles fall in the context of the renewed argument among the Iraqi congress parties differing in their ideology, methods, and dealings, in order to reconsider concepts in the light of changes in international policies, which represent a big disappointment for the congress, as states are moving rapidly toward lifting the international embargo on Iraq.

Shabib and al-Jalabi could not find a means to tackle current and potential developments except to ignore and deny the congress' fragile reality and live in hope. Both are trying to pretend to forget that Iraqi opposition political action is suffering an ideological, political, and structural defect—which was reflected in the painful Kurdish infighting which lasted for a month. This is

because the exile opposition's plans are suffering shortcomings with regard to the assessment of the situation, the accurate diagnosis, or the working method. Besides, the Kurdish infighting and the crack in the Kurdistan Front have exposed the Iraqi congress' modest ability to control the fighting between the two major parties, which are considered the congress' main pillars—which forced the Kurdish and Iraqi leader Mas'ud Barzani to admit failure.

Following are some examples of the kind of policies causing this failure:

1. The congress' policies ignore the Iraqi people's suffering, and real concerns. The Iraqi people are crushed by the dictatorship grinder on the one hand and by economic sanctions on the other hand. And the policies of the congress, which is participating in keeping Iraq away from Arab concerns, do not reflect farsightedness. This is because states of the Arab nations are interlinked and bound by the power of pan-Arabism and the Islamic religion. Neither Iraq or any other Arab state can be kept away from the peace and security of the region's peoples and every people's right to progress based on independent development.

2. Although the second Gulf war changed the balances of power in the region and inflicted the most humiliating defeats on the regime of tyrant Saddam; although our people's courageous intifadah forced the Americans, who were less familiar with Iraq's geopolitics than the Europeans, to become more supportive of the Kurds and to sympathize with the Arabs of southern Iraq; and although the sanctions have succeeded more than necessary—all this cannot force the tyrant of Iraq to relinquish power without the effort to create a unified will for the opposition.

3. Criticism is exercised by one side: this is the shared feature of both Shabib's and al-Jalabi's rhetoric. Both criticized others a lot and did not criticize themselves a little.

4. What al-Jalabi said about the difference between administrative action and political action is true. But this view might not be enough, and there have to be other major aspects dealing with the rhetoric and its substance as a practice, activity, and work.

5. Those concerned with the opposition's stance pause at the issue of "the marriage between the internal factor and the external factor" mentioned in Mr. Muhammad 'Abd-al-Jabbar's article in AL-HAYAH on 29 June 1994, raising questions about the seriousness of this marriage, its developments, its objectives, and the identity of those participating in it. But one of the questions raised is: Who is going to pay the bills of this "marriage," regardless of how legitimate it is?

6. The fear that brandishing that marriage might represent a kind of polarization [istiqtab] for any discontent, any protest, or any potential reaction.

7. Shabib relied on interpretation and justification. For example, he does not accept the idea that the formation of the Congress' Presidential Council was subjected to sectarian and racist criteria. This deliberate confusion between interpretation and justification is a methodological mistake in which frustrated people usually fall. It also means judging the intentions of those criticizing the establishment of a system on the basis of such criteria and confiscating their right to exercise interpretation and criticism.

8. There is no argument about the importance of the Kurdish role in the Iraqi political action march because of several factors, some of which are related to historic reasons. Others are to do with the deep-rooted ties between the Arabs and the Kurds. What would consolidate and reinforce the Kurdish role in the joint struggle march is to correctly understand the political map in the region and to crystallize a working strategy consistent with the Arab and Kurdish peoples' aspiration to establish a democratic society that protects all the Kurdish people's national rights.

9. Why does Iraqi opposition thinking commit such mistakes?

It is difficult to answer this question, since there are numerous reasons why. However, I believe that there is one major reason behind all the reasons: the intellectual and political exile of the Iraqi opposition. So everyone should first concentrate on examining and diagnosing the illnesses in order to crystallize a new action aimed at establishing a happy Iraq.

Kurdish Leader's Office Denies French Opposition

MM2107142994 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 19 Jul 94 p 6

[Unattributed report: "Clarification From Jalal Talabani's Office"]

[Text] We received the following statement yesterday:

"London radio has said that the newspaper AL-HAYAH published a report to the effect that Paris was opposed to a Kurdish federation and that it had advised Talabani to go to Baghdad.

"The office of Mr. Jalal Talabani, secretary general of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, categorically denies this report. Because Paris certainly did not discuss the issue of going to Baghdad. In fact it stressed to him through President Francois Mitterrand, Defense Minister Francois Leotard, and Foreign Minister Alain Juppe France's support for the Kurdish people's right to the broadest self-rule within a unified Iraq.

"The views of both Talabani and Alain Juppe were identical on the Kurdish issue, as mentioned in the official statement issued by the French Foreign Ministry. And Paris did not ask [Talabani] to go to Baghdad but,

rather, insisted on the need for Baghdad to comply with all the international resolutions, including Resolution 688. It also stressed France's support for the continuation of international protection for the Kurdish people in Iraq. This is why this clarification was needed."

Saddam Confers With Turkish Parliamentary Delegation

JN2107185494 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1555 GMT 21 Jul 94

[Text] Baghdad, 21 Jul (INA)—President Saddam Husayn received here today a delegation of the Turkish Grand National Assembly, headed by Erdal Inonu, chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee.

The two sides stressed the importance of bolstering relations between the two friendly peoples, who maintain profound historical ties, and counting on true relations rather than temporary circumstances.

Erdal Inonu and the members of the Turkish Grand National Assembly stressed the importance of beginning serious work to lift the blockade imposed on Iraq since all reasons and justifications for the blockade have been eliminated. They also stressed the need to safeguard Iraq's territorial integrity, its sovereignty, and its independence, as it constitutes an effective element in achieving stability, security, and peace in the region.

The meeting was attended by Sa'di Mahdi Salih, member of the Revolution Command Council and speaker of the National Assembly, and Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf, the minister of foreign affairs.

Delegation Head Holds News Conference /

JN2107210194 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1856 GMT 21 Jul 94

[Text] Baghdad, 21 Jul (INA)—Erdal Inonu, chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee of the Turkish Grand National Assembly, has asserted that Turkey strongly supports Iraqi territorial integrity and objects to any attempt to harm Iraq's independence and sovereignty.

At a news conference he held at al-Rashid Hotel today, attended by correspondents of Arab and international television networks and news agencies, local newspapers, and the Iraqi News Agency, Erdal Inonu said that Iraq and Turkey are neighboring countries and that their peoples maintain strong historical, religious, and cultural relations.

He added that Turkey would continue its efforts to lift the economic blockade and end the suffering of the Iraqi people, voicing hope that Iraq will return to the international circles to play a major role in the region's security and stability. He highly praised Iraq's constructive and positive cooperation with the United Nations, as well as its implementation of its commitment to the UN Security Council's resolutions.

He also expressed his thanks to and appreciation for President Saddam Husayn and the Iraqi officials for the warm reception and hospitality they accorded the Turkish delegation during its stay in Iraq.

The chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee of the Turkish Grand National Assembly described his visit to Iraq as successful and fruitful, and said it would constitute a step to promoting cooperation between Iraq and Turkey, particularly in the ares of economy and trade. He also pointed out that as soon as he returned to Turkey, he would begin extensive consultations inside and outside the Turkish Grand National Assembly on the issue.

He stated that Turkey has sustained huge financial losses as a result of the continuation of the blockade on Iraq, explaining that the Turkish Government would continue its efforts with the United Nations and other international sides concerned to reach an agreement on draining the Iraqi oil pipeline crossing Turkish territory. This, he added, would be a first step toward lifting the economic blockade on Iraq.

Country Studies 'Top Secret' U.S. Appeal on Haiti

Rabin's Office Conducts Study

TA2207062994 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 22 Jul 94 pp 1, 15

[Report by political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer]

[Excerpt] The United States yesterday asked Israel to dispatch military troops to Haiti to assist Washington's endeavor to organize a multinational contingent to be deployed in Haiti after the present rulers are ousted by the Americans.

Charge d'affaires Mikha'el Shalev from the Israeli Embassy in Washington has met with Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Ted McNamara, who liaises between the State Department and the Pentagon. McNamara explained that the United States had asked France and the Netherlands to send troops to participate in an international peacekeeping contingent to be deployed in Haiti. Israel was requested to prepare Infantry and Air Force units for the contingent. The Americans stressed that the request involves a peace contingent that will assist in restoring democracy and public order in Haiti, after officers who took over the country are ousted.

The Prime Minister's Office is conducting a top secret review of the U.S. request. [passage omitted]

Ministry Official Confirms Appeal

TA2207101894 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1000 GMT 22 Jul 94

[Text] A Foreign Ministry official has confirmed that the United States has asked Israel to join a multinational peacekeeping force envisaged in Haiti once the army-backed regime there is overthrown. The official's confirmation was in reaction to a report in the newspaper YEDI'OT AHARONOT, which said that Israel was one of the countries whose help was being enlisted for a peacekeeping force to be posted after the removal of Haiti's military dictatorship. The official said that the request will be examined.

Peres on Egypt Talks, Pact With Jordan

TA2207061594 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0405 GMT 22 Jul 94

[Text] Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz attended a reception at the Egyptian Embassy in Tel Aviv yesterday, from where he reported about the political activity due to take place next week:

[Begin recording] [Raz] A lot of activity is expected to take place next Sunday [24 July] in the framework of the tottering negotiations between Israel and Syria. Prime Minister Rabin will meet with Secretary of State Christopher on 24 July, and on the same day, Egyptian President Husni Mubarak will pay a visit to Damascus. Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, returning from a lightning visit to Egypt, brought back his impressions regarding the Israeli-Syrian track.

[Peres] President Mubarak believes we should not despair of the Syrian issue. He is perfectly aware of both our and Syria's positions. Mubarak will travel to Syria and try to convince the Syrian president. He understands what all of us understand—namely, that every successful negotiations process is conducted on two levels: an open, public level, in which each party declares to the other its support for peace, and a second, covert level, which can be used for ironing out differences of opinion without each issue turning into a major affair or public matter.

[Raz] Are you implying that there is a secret channel between Israel and Syria?

[Peres] At this stage, there is no such channel. This is one of the things preventing progress.

[Raz] A senior Jordanian official announced that a nonbelligerency agreement will be signed during the Rabin-Husayn summit. Are you aware of such a possibility?

[Peres] I think that at this stage, this is mere speculation. The final document for the summit has still not been formulated. I, however, would rather see the beginning of an era of peace than an end to the era of war. I think it is more appropriate to describe it in this way.

[Raz] The prime minister wants to see whether a document will be signed in Washington before he agrees to comment on the remarks of the senior Jordanian official.

Yitzhaq Rabin, Shim'on Peres, other ministers, Knesset members, senior officers, and many other guests attended the annual reception held by Ambassador Basyuni on the occasion of Egypt's Revolution Day. Basyuni, who is deeply involved in the political process, provided an upbeat political forecast:

[Basyuni, in English] I do believe before the end of this year we will have a peace treaty with Jordan, and maybe we will have a joint declaration of principles with the Syrians, and there is a progress with the Palestinians, and also it will be okay with the Lebanese. So I hope that next year we will celebrate our national day and we will have with us colleagues from Syria, from Jordan, from Lebanon, and it will be a comprehensive peace.

[Raz] Finally, we return to the Jerusalem issue. Peres gave us a brief reaction to 'Arafat's remarks that only he is entitled to invite people—including King Husayn—to the holy sites in Jerusalem:

[Peres] I did not know that Yasir 'Arafat can provide Israel with a mandate. This is not the situation. In reality, the situation is different. [end recording]

Rabin Views Peace, Autonomy, Nuclear Weapons

NC2207090594 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 18 Jul 94 p 5

[Interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin by Ahmad Nafi' in Jerusalem "a few hours before the surprise U.S. announcement that Rabin and King Husayn of Jordan would meet in Washington"]

[Text] [Nafi'] What is your message to 'Arafat now that he has assumed his authority in Gaza?

[Rabin] It is the same message I addressed to him when we signed the Declaration of Principles in Washington and the Cairo Agreement on the implementation of the Gaza-Jericho Accord. The message is this: First, take the opportunity of your presence in Gaza to raise the economic and social level of citizens in Gaza and Jericho. Second, let us meet our reciprocal obligations on security issues. Third, let us complete what we agreed upon in Paris last week and continue our negotiations on two issues, the first concerns the Israeli-Palestinian Committee discussing the transfer of power and the holding of early elections and the other concerns a committee discussing other negotiable subjects in accordance with the Cairo Agreement. We began last Monday [18 July], so let us continue working all week. Let us meet all our obligations as mentioned in the documents we signed and in the messages exchanged between Chairman 'Arafat and myself on mutual recognition between Israel and the PLO.

[Nafi'] The transfer of civilian authorities has started. Are you prepared to expand this transfer?

[Rabin] Let us first find a solution to this problem. We are discussing five areas: education, health, social services, tourism, and direct taxes. Let us first work on these and try to achieve something before we start to expand.

Why should we talk so much now? The problem is that people are intentionally ignoring the negotiations. The negotiations are not an end in themselves, but the means to reach an agreement that can be implemented on the ground. So, let us begin work first. Why should we argue now? We have pledged to consider other areas for a transfer of power but we have not started because we do not know the details, how to do it, or how to succeed. Let us first agree on what the two sides have pledged to achieve.

[Nafi'] How will Israel help the Palestinian authority financially? Will it return to the Palestinians the taxes and duties it collected from them?

[Rabin] First, you must consider that many countries have pledged to provide funds, about $2.2 billion in five years. So what is the problem now? These countries—the United States, Europe, and Japan—do not give huge sums all at once; they will provide the aid when they see a plan based on the management of several projects. First, they want the recipient to be accountable. Unfortunately, the PLO was not in a position to receive the money on the terms applied to nations that receive aid.

When Israel receives aid from the United States, we must first obtain their approval for the projects we want them to finance. The Americans will also have the right to supervise the use of this aid and make sure it serves its purpose. They provide us with the aid and we submit bills specifying what has been achieved in the agreed-upon projects.

But the PLO is not used to this and it does not have a budget for someone to see and review. The main problem, therefore, lies not in the readiness of the donor states to extend assistance as much as in the PLO's inability to build some system through which these states can extend their aid and present reports to their parliaments and peoples to whom they are accountable; this is the problem today.

[Nafi'] Israel reportedly intends to expedite the application of autonomy or the Palestinian authority in other cities of the West Bank. How true is this?

[Rabin] Let us first distinguish between our current commitment to a speedy transfer of power and early elections. As for the elections, they will eventually be discussed in the context of negotiations concerning a provisional agreement in the West Bank. This will take a long time and it is better for things to proceed as they are now.

With regard to the issue of Gaza-Jericho First, a period of seven months was given for negotiating the implementation but we took more than seven months to start negotiations and I believe we did the right thing. It is better for us to negotiate the details of what must be implemented because it is no longer a mere declaration of principles. Gaza-Jericho First is now an agreement that is being implemented on the ground. It must be a detailed one because what we are seeking to achieve with the Palestinians is a peaceful coexistence between two entities living in the same region.

This situation is much more complex than the peace with Egypt, with which we agreed on establishing peace as well as on the concept of peace and security arrangements. We had boundaries of peace between us and a clear distribution of responsibilities, since Egypt was responsible for its share and we were responsible for ours. But this does not apply to the interim agreement we have signed with the Palestinians, so it will take more time.

Negotiations on Gaza-Jericho took seven months while the implementation took only two or three weeks because the agreement was well prepared and logically compatible with the security aspects. Any future agreement must be concluded in the same way; we should discuss all the details, leave nothing unclear, and then see how successful it is.

Because the contentious points are too many, agreements should be well prepared before being implemented. This facilitates things and makes the implementation quicker and more effective.

According to the agreement, we are committed to the following: First, 75 per cent of the income tax of the Palestinians who work in Israel and who are under the self-rule authority will be transferred to the Palestinian Authority. Second, all personal customs and other fees on commodities will go to the Palestinians. We are committed to nothing else.

Besides, those who work in the civil administration and operate under the military government—between 5,000-6,000 people in Gaza—have their own pension fund estimated at approximately 300-350 million shekels or $100 million. Our responsibility toward them requires us to deposit this money in a reliable bank so that it will not be harmed. We are committed to this and want to be sure that we will pay them any amount we owe them. So we do not want to transfer this amount to the Palestinian authority; we want to deposit it in a Western bank to make sure that those who should benefit from the money do so.

As for the civil administration workers of the military government in the West Bank, they have a pension budget and we will continue to pay pensions to the eligible people. The Israeli Government will continue to pay them directly and once the interim agreement becomes a reality we will continue to pay those who reach pensionable age and who live in the West Bank.

This is our obligation toward these people until the Palestinian authority is established. From now and from the beginning of the implementation of the Gaza-Jericho Accord, we are responsible only for those who are employed while we have supervision of the area.

[Nafi'] I know the agreement stipulates that there will be a final solution as soon as possible and no later than the third year after initiating the implementation of the agreement. What will happen if pressure is applied to conduct early negotiations on the final status?

[Rabin] I do not think this will be in line with the agreement's provisions. I prefer that we now focus on continuing the implementation of the Declaration of Principles. We agreed in Paris on the committees that will take charge of this task, of the remainder of the Cairo Accord, of early elections, and of the transfer of power. I prefer concentrating on these issues so that they will preclude any events contradicting the agreement.

Let me remind you that the Cairo Accord stipulated that negotiations on a final solution will not begin until two years after the implementation of the Gaza-Jericho Accord, in other words, they will not go beyond May 1996.

[Nafi'] Will you allow the Palestinian police to enter the West Bank during the talks on the transfer of authority?

[Rabin] No. I think that it is impossible to divide the responsibility for security matters between two authorities in a certain place. There are the Palestinian police forces. But you do not know what we call "the blue uniform." [sentence as published] This can be part of the arrangements. But they will not have full responsibility as they do today in Gaza, Khan Yunis, Rafah, or Dayr al-Balah.

[Nafi'] Will the redeployment of the Israeli Army take place before or after the elections?

[Rabin] We have agreed that the redeployment of the Israeli Army will take place according to the provisions of the agreement in order to hold the elections. There is also the issue of another redeployment, which must be discussed with the elected Palestinian Council. If you read the text of the agreement carefully, you will find out that there are two stages of Israeli Army redeployment. The agreement pertaining to Gaza provides for the withdrawal toward the West Bank.

[Nafi'] What is your opinion of Chairman 'Arafat? Is he different in reality from how intelligence reports used to describe him, and what are the differences?

[Rabin] I have decided not to issue any verdict about the chairman's personality. We have made a strategic decision to consider the PLO under 'Arafat as our partner. Our verdict on him will not depend on what happened in the past but on how he will implement his obligations and honor his commitments under the agreement with us. This is the only way that we will judge him now. We will not judge him on the basis of what happened in the past but on what is happening now and will happen in the future.

[Nafi'] If the Palestine National Council decides to meet in Gaza, will you permit its members living abroad to enter Gaza, and if they enter will you allow them to stay in the self-rule areas?

[Rabin] Without a doubt. We are interested in having the Palestine National Council meet in Gaza because Chairman 'Arafat has promised to introduce changes (in the Palestinian charter) to fulfill the terms of the agreement we concluded last year. Although so far I do not know the council members, I think that there will be no problem, except with a few of them.

[Nafi'] Will King Husayn and Chairman 'Arafat come to Jerusalem to pray?

[Rabin] I have no reports about this from either party. I think that at this stage the issue must be left open. Israel is committed to granting the members of the two faiths (Muslims and Christians) free access to the holy places. They will have the right to perform all religious rites. If the purpose is religious, I see no problem.

[Nafi'] When will you meet openly with King Husayn and where? (The interview was held a few hours before it was announced that Husayn and Rabin will meet in Washington).

[Rabin] This depends on King Husayn's decision.

[Nafi'] It has been reported that a meeting will take place between you within three months.

[Rabin] I cannot confirm anything. I am interested in holding such a meeting, but the decision is up to King Husayn.

[Nafi'] Despite the various security assurances the United States is offering to Israel in return for a withdrawal from the Golan Heights, Israel has made no concessions for an agreement with the Syrians. How do you think progress can be made in the Israel-Syrian negotiations, knowing that if the Israeli-Egyptian experience is not repeated on the Syrian track, no peace can be achieved?

[Rabin] I do not think we can go into the details of the negotiations between Israel and Syria. I think the Syrians are making a grave mistake; they believe the United States is responsible for Israel. This will not happen. The U.S. policy is clear, namely, that the parties concerned with the conflict are the ones responsible for ending the state of war, violence, and terrorism and building peaceful relations. This was the situation with Egypt and this is the situation with the Palestinians now. So the mistake the Syrians are making is that they are trying to ignore Israel. They are talking with the United States, not with Israel. In the second half of July, we received U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, who tried to narrow the gap between our positions. I will not go into the details of this. If the Syrians fail to realize—and President al-Sadat and Chairman 'Arafat realized it earlier—that the best way is to talk directly with the Israelis, whether calmly or not, then I think the problem will not be solved.

[Nafi'] How do you view a solution to the problem of the Israeli settlements? Do you see their removal as one of the possible solutions?

[Rabin] Again, I do not think it is desirable to discuss the issues of the final solution at this stage. We are currently discussing issues mentioned in the letter of invitation to the Madrid peace conference. That letter clearly stated, with the approval of all participating Arab countries including the Palestinians, that we are concerned with "an interim agreement." This agreement will give the Palestinians the right to run their own affairs and guarantee the continuation of Israel's security, including the settlements. Issues relating to the permanent solution will be left until later. Now that an apparatus for the interim Palestinian self-rule arrangements has been formed, I hope the climate will change. When we start negotiations for a final solution, things in general and the psychological state of the two sides will have changed.

[Nafi'] The Arabs in general and the Lebanese in particular view Hizballah's operations in south Lebanon as legitimate resistance against occupation. How far are the Israelis committed to Security Council Resolution 425 on withdrawal from Lebanon? The implementation of this resolution will open the door to peace between Israel and Lebanon.

[Rabin] As for me, after the Madrid peace conference, Resolution 425 has become irrelevant [ghayr dhi mawdu']. The resolution was passed in 1978 and today we are experiencing a totally new situation. I presented to the American President and to the Syrians and Lebanese a clear proposal that the Lebanese Army withdraw [as published] north of the security strip in Lebanon and try within six months to prove that it can prevent all violence and disband Hizballah's army. After that, and within three months, we would start peace negotiations to conclude a peace treaty that will ensure Israel's withdrawal to the international border, which lies between the Palestinian border as laid down by the British mandate and Lebanon. We have no claims to a single inch of Lebanon's territory or to a single cubic meter of its water. We recognize the official international border on two conditions: that an agreement on security arrangements be signed with the Lebanese Government and that the Lebanese who cooperated with us be treated like the other militias, which were disarmed and incorporated into the Lebanese Army; they must not be hurt.

[Nafi'] In your view, to what extent will the Arabs be willing to abolish the boycott of Israel and what will be the new form of cooperation between the two sides?

[Rabin] One of the accusations leveled by the opposition in Israel against the government is that I concluded an agreement with the PLO and proved my readiness to implement the Gaza-Jericho Accord without being able to convince the Arab countries or the Arab League to lift the boycott of the third party.

We are not talking now about lifting the boycott of direct trade links between Israel and the Arab countries but about lifting the boycott of third parties, such as companies that sell or operate in Israel and that are suffering from the boycott. We have not succeeded in this area and I believe that the stand of the Arab countries and Arab world on this issue is a grave mistake.

[Nafi'] The boycott of companies is not really being implemented.

[Rabin] I am not talking about this now; I am talking about an Arab League resolution stipulating the imposition of an Arab boycott. All we are asking for is the lifting of a boycott on the third party, not on trade links with Israel at this stage, and I have failed. Believe me this situation does not help those who support peace inside Israel.

[Nafi'] Israel aroused violent storms on the existence of an Arab nuclear stockpile, especially in Iraq. Now that it is certain that the mass-destruction weapons have been dismantled, are you still afraid of North Korea providing Iraq and Iran with nuclear weapons and do you regard Syria as a genuine nuclear threat?

[Rabin] First let me remind you that Iraq tried to procure nuclear capabilities in the armament field despite the fact that it signed the nuclear nonproliferation treaty. The Vienna-based International Atomic Energy Agency carried out an inspection that proved that the weapons were absolutely ineffective. So what happened to their capabilities? As long as there are inspections by the UN delegations, I believe these teams will manage to halt their activity. At the same time, we realize full well that Iran, not Syria, represents the greatest threat in the area of nuclear capabilities.

In my modest opinion, Iran represents a threat on two levels. It encourages extremist Islamic terrorist movements. When the Zambian president visited us, he said he had closed Iran's embassy in Zambia, although the Muslim population there is small. They were about to succeed in Egypt and they are in control in Sudan. In Egypt they carry out terrorist operations and are among the Palestinians who are involved in most, if not all, terrorist activities against Israel to kill the peace process with the PLO. Hence I believe this is the basic problem because it threatens the region, not only Israel.

Second, I have presented a proposal and we are ready to sign an agreement to render the Middle East a region free of nuclear weapons. But such an agreement must be signed on the bases of bilateral accords and mutual inspection among all countries of the region without exception. We do not believe in the International Atomic Energy Agency because it has proved its inability in Iraq and elsewhere.

[Nafi'] A final question on domestic issues. The Yi'ud Movement, which has three seats in parliament, has joined the government coalition. Do you encourage the religious Shas Movement, which has five seats, to join in?

[Rabin] The problem is that we have reached an interim agreement to form a coalition and the question is: Will three or two be in the coalition?

[Nafi'] Does this also encourage Shas to join in?

[Rabin] The internal policy is a complicated issue.

[Nafi'] Actually I believe that this will give the coalition a greater authority to.... [sentence incomplete]

[Rabin] We want to expand the coalition but there are problems. Each party has to prove that with its mere readiness to join the coalition it has achieved something and that this might not always be in line with the interpretation of the general policy's broad outline.

We have made it clear to everyone that any party wishing to join the coalition must accept the basic lines of the Washington meeting, the Declaration of Principles, and the Cairo Accord, and approve the continuation of the peace process.

Mayor on 'Arafat Claims of Jurisdiction Over Jerusalem

TA2207043894 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 22 Jul 94

[Text] PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat is angry over Israel's invitation to King Husayn to visit Jerusalem. After meeting with Secretary Christopher in Gaza yesterday, 'Arafat said Israelis had no right to invite Arab leaders to come to Jerusalem; that was his prerogative.

[Begin 'Arafat recording] They haven't the right to offer any invitation. It is my duty and my responsibility to offer the invitation to all my brothers and to all my friends to visit the holy city and the holy Christian and Muslim places in the holy city. This is the jurisdiction of the Palestinians. But I appreciate very much that King Husayn will come to visit the holy city together with me, and this is an invitation from me to his majesty. [end recording]

In Jerusalem, Mayor Ehud Olmert says he is the only one entitled to invite the king of Jordan to visit the holy sites of Jerusalem. In Mayor Olmert's words, 'Arafat does not invite and he is not invited. However, the Jerusalem Municipality does invite King Husayn to come. The mayor was speaking at a gathering in solidarity with Israeli POW's and MIA's.

Three Bombs Explode in Hebron; Riots Under Way

TA2207092194 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 22 Jul 94

[Text] Three makeshift bombs exploded near central sites in the Jewish settlement in Hebron. One Jewish boy was very slightly wounded. One charge also exploded in Halhul. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that the Hebron bombs exploded near Bet Romano, Bet Schneorson, and Gross Square.

Since this morning, there have been disturbances in Hebron, especially in the city center. The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] is dispersing the rioters with shots and tear gas.

Riots and clashes also broke out in the village of Husan, near Bethlehem, when settlers from Betar were stoned by local villagers. The security forces who were alerted to the site clamped a curfew on the village.

New Procedures at Erez; Report Says Police Ambushed

TA2207085894 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 22 Jul 94 p A1

[Report by Aluf Ben and Eytan Rabin]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] At 0300 this morning, the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] lifted the closure imposed

on the Gaza Strip following the severe riots at the Erez checkpoint early this week. Gaza Strip workers can now enter Israel again.

The decision to reopen the passage to workers was taken after the Israeli-Palestinian security committees worked out agreements on this issue. Among other things, it was decided that only workers possessing work permits will be able to approach the checkpoints. The Palestinian police will erect checkpoints and reinforce its forces in the autonomy area leading up to the IDF checkpoint. It will be charged with screening workers who seek to pass through the checkpoint for work in Israel.

A military source said yesterday that the Palestinian workers will reach the Israeli checkpoint only after they have been checked at the Palestinian checkpoint, where it will be ascertained whether they possess work permits. According to the source, the IDF has increased its manpower at the Erez checkpoint and the Palestinian police have changed their forces in the area, deploying more experienced policemen.

The IDF has completed the debriefing concerning the bloody Erez checkpoint events. The debriefing indicates that the IDF and Border Police forces acted according to procedures, and it was stated that their withholding fire "prevented a disaster." At the same time, the evidence indicates that several Israeli citizens who got involved in the incident opened fire at Palestinian policemen. [passage omitted]

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 0500 GMT on 22 July, in a report by military correspondent Yariv Ben-Yehuda, adds that "the defense establishment's debriefing on the Erez checkpoint riots indicates that the Palestinian policemen deliberately opened fire at the border policemen during the Erez riots. This shooting occurred following several hours of rioting at the checkpoint, after some of the rioters cursed the Palestinian policemen, calling them traitors. When the border policemen realized they were coming under fire, they began to retreat toward their jeep, with the intention of withdrawing from the area. At this stage, a border policeman was critically wounded in the head. Military sources emphasize that the Palestinian policemen did not receive an order from above to open fire. The incident involved a handful of policemen who initiated an ambush against IDF soldiers."]

Police Exercise Held; Gaza Closure Partially Lifted

TA2107152694 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 21 Jul 94

[Excerpts] A large-scale exercise, designed to test the police performance after the implementation of autonomy, was carried out in the police Southern District today. Our correspondent Yosi Asulin was there to report:

[Begin recording] [Asulin] About 4,000 policemen, including senior Israel Police officers, war-reserve-stores unit troops, and other security forces, participated since this morning in the largest exercise ever carried out in Southern District. The exercise included simulated terrorist attacks.

The exercise was intended to test a new concept charging Israel Police with responsibility for domestic security, with an emphasis on the vicinity of the new Gaza Strip border. Police Commissioner Asaf Hefetz has been overseeing the exercise since the morning. [passage omitted]

Police Minister Moshe Shahal observed the exercise and visited the operations room in Ashdod. In reply to a question on whether he expected more terrorist attacks in the wake of the PLO-Israeli agreement implementation, he said:

[Shahal] I hope there will be none in the Southern District, which now abuts the autonomy. The exercise is very important in that the simulated situations prepare and train the policemen and ensure immediate, appropriate reaction when necessary.

[Asulin] Shahal further said that tomorrow morning the Gaza closure will be partially lifted, and Gaza Strip workers will be permitted to enter Israel.

The exercise will end at 2200 tonight. [end recording]

Editorial: Jordan, Israel 'on the Road to Peace'

TA2107115894 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 21 Jul 94 B1

[Editorial: "No Way Back"]

[Text] Since the Madrid Conference in 1991, several occasions in Israeli-Arab relations, such as the Oslo, Washington, and Cairo events, have been dubbed "historical." These three events mainly related to Israeli-Palestinian relations. No discernible progress has been made in relations between Israel and the neighboring Arab states with which it still has no peace agreements.

It is true that over the past 46 years—in fact, for over a century—the Israeli-Palestinian conflict was the focus of the broader struggle between Israel and the neighboring Arab countries. Over time, however, mainly as a result of the wars, the conflicts between Israel and its neighbors gained momentum and became independent nuclei of controversies. In the framework of the peace efforts, it became necessary to deal not only with the Israeli-Palestinian conflict but also with the separate controversies with its neighboring countries.

Up to 1977, the Arab countries preserved a united front against Israel, presented it with ultimatums, and in fact refused to discuss separate—if any—agreements (there are differences of opinion regarding the seriousness of the hints received occasionally from Egypt and perhaps some other Arab states). This united front was broken for the first time in Camp David. Many more years and

drastic changes in the circumstances were required before Israel and the PLO agreed to negotiate an agreement. This agreement undoubtedly paved the way for a change in Israeli-Jordanian relations, a change which is taking place in front of our eyes all along the East African Rift and will culminate in the 25 July meeting at the White House. Developments in the nonpolitical sphere, such as the unprecedented interview granted by Crown Prince Hasan to HA'ARETZ envoy in Amman Ze'ev Schiff, are also part of this change.

The main significance of the change is that Jordan is now willing to openly discuss the settlement of its bilateral controversies with Israel, without waiting for the solution of all the problems between Israel and the Palestinians or for the opening of Israeli-Syrian negotiations. Even if a formal peace has not been attained yet and difficult and crisis-laden negotiations still lie ahead, it will be very difficult to undo yesterday's achievement, which amounts to de facto political recognition of Israel by Jordan.

The factors that contributed to this turnabout are manifold. In addition to the progress made on the Israeli-Palestinian track—a cause of concern for Jordan in certain spheres—Jordan's desire to please the United States and thereby obtain economic rewards also played a significant role. In this context, we should also mention President Clinton's desire to take advantage of this opportunity to advance peace and score a U.S. foreign policy success. These developments found Israel prepared, in a large measure thanks to ongoing efforts by Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, who has long detected the opportunities inherent in the political and economic circumstances created along our eastern border over the past few years.

The tripartite meeting at the Dead Sea spa was mainly a photo opportunity, but the speeches delivered by the parties and their joint news conference highlighted their fervent desire to solve the problems and establish real peace. Jordanian Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali's speech was marked by a conciliatory tone, and the contents and phrasing of his remarks on Jerusalem and the Palestinians are not unpleasant to Israeli ears. At the same time, it was apparent from his speech that peace and normalization cannot be taken for granted and that the sides will have to work very hard to attain them. It will be very difficult, however, to undo what has been achieved so far on the road to peace and normalization.

Public Polled on Jordan's Demands for Peace

TA2207111994 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 22 Jul 94 p 2

["YEDI'OT AHARONOT public opinion poll carried out by the Dahaf Institute"; all figures published in percentages]

[Excerpts] Should Israel accept the Jordanian demands concerning territories and water in exchange for full peace with that country?

It should	40
It should, in return for ceding territories only	6
It should, in return for ceding water resources only	6
It should not	43
No reply	5

[Passage omitted] The poll was conducted on 19 and 20 July among 500 interviewees constituting a representative sample of the adult Israeli population. The maximum error margin is 4 percent.

Netanyahu Note to Husayn Favors Quest for Peace

TA2207111794 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 22 Jul 94 p 1

[Report by Bina Barzel]

[Text] Likud Chairman Binyamin Netanyahu sent a letter to King Husayn yesterday announcing his unequivocal endorsement of the quest for formal peace between Israel and Jordan.

Netanyahu's letter implied a reservation about accelerated moves and emphasized the need to build a new reality on the ground that will encourage peaceful Arab-Jewish coexistence.

The letter, which was forwarded to the king's palace in Amman yesterday, stated, among other things: "Your decision to launch an open relationship between the State of Israel and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan opens a new era for both our countries. Jordan has always been the strategic anchor of every peace arrangement on our eastern border."

Netanyahu further wrote that "Jordan has always maintained vital ties with Palestinian Arabs residing in Judaea and Samaria. These territories border on the major cities of both Jordan and Israel. Therefore, any discussion of a stable solution of the conflict over these territories must take into consideration the national interests of both countries. I do not believe we should rush forward and coerce parties into solutions, such as a confederation, which run counter to these interests. Instead, we should patiently set out to build a new reality on the ground that will encourage peaceful coexistence between Arabs and Jews."

Naval Exercise Conducted With Tunisians, Qataris

TA2107183094 Jerusalem New Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 21 Jul 94

[Interview with Army affairs correspondent Roni Daniyel in the Tel Aviv studio by moderator Ya'aqov Eylon—live]

[Text] [Eylon] We would like to report today on cooperation, the first of its kind, between navy officers from Israel, Tunisia, and Qatar in the course of a naval exercise held last week off Italy's shores. Our army affairs correspondent Roni Daniyel is in our Tel Aviv studio:

[Daniyel] This exercise was decided upon in the meeting of the arms control and regional security committee held in Qatar two months ago, as one of a series of confidence-building measures. The exercise was conducted last weekend, off Italy's shores. A U.S. vessel, a Canadian vessel, Italian helicopters—and what is more important and interesting—Tunisian and Qatari officers, the Egyptian naval attache in Italy, and Israel Navy officers took part in an exercise, which involved the cannibalization of vessels and the introduction of communication procedures to prevent fire incidents between ships in the Middle East.

[Eylon] Could this cooperation continue in the future?

[Daniyel] Yes, definitely. Officers from Saudi Arabia and Oman, the commander of the Jordanian Navy, and even a Palestinian admiral were scheduled to participate in the exercise, but they did not attend due to technical reasons. Nevertheless, work has already started on another exercise, which will apparently be conducted off the shores of Port Said. It is hoped that all the above officers will turn up for this exercise with their own navy vessels, and then we will witness real and full military cooperation, the first of its kind.

King Briefs Cabinet on Peace Developments

JN2107162294 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 21 Jul 94

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn, accompanied by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan, visited the Prime Ministry at noon today. His majesty met with Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali at his office for some time, in the presence of al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir, chief of the Royal Hashemite Court.

Afterward, His Majesty King Husayn chaired a Cabinet session, during which he stressed that Jordan is proceeding on the road of a just, honorable, and lasting peace. He added that the developments on the Jordanian track are no coincidence. They are the outcome of deep thinking and real concern for the higher interests of the homeland and the nation.

His majesty added: As a result of the length of the conflict in the Middle East and the lack of stability, we as human communities have moved away from what is normal and natural in the life of people, namely, peace, which, in reality, is an indivisible part of our heritage and civilization. We have gotten so used to what is abnormal that it has become normal. We should, therefore, reconsider our way of thinking and behavior so peace can prevail and the people of the region can enjoy the warmth of stability, security, and peace. This will achieve prosperity and progress for future generations, God willing.

His majesty went on: We have never been reluctant to have true coordination with all brothers, in the same degree of concern and attention. We must fulfill our duty toward our sincere, loyal people. His Majesty King Husayn also reiterated his confidence in the government and its efforts to achieve the higher interests.

The ministers expressed their absolute support for His Majesty King Husayn and his wise policy. They stressed that they stand in a unified rank behind the Hashemite leadership, which has always proven its wisdom and farsighted vision of the future in the interest of the causes of the homeland and the nation.

Departs for Washington Summit

JN2207113794 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1100 GMT 22 Jul 94

[Excerpts] His Majesty King Husayn and Her Majesty Queen Nur left the homeland for the United States in God's care before noon today in response to an official invitation from U.S. President Bill Clinton. President Clinton invited his majesty to visit Washington where a summit, which President Clinton called for, will be held between His Majesty King Husayn and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin on Monday [25 July].

President Clinton's invitation to His Majesty King Husayn came in the wake of the U.S. initiative which the U.S. President made during his meeting with His Majesty King Husayn at the White House on 22 June. This initiative was made as part of the U.S. commitment to promote the peace process and the need to support Jordan economically and militarily, so Jordan will continue its pioneering and important role in the peace process.

His majesty will also address the U.S. Congress. In his speech, he will explain the consistent Jordanian position on the peace process and the need for this peace to be just, comprehensive, and lasting, so coming generations will accept and safeguard this peace. [passage omitted]

In the presence of ministers, His Highness Prince Hasan took the constitutional oath as regent during his majesty's stay abroad. His majesty is accompanied by the prime minister, his excellency the chief of the Royal Hashemite Court, the speaker of the House of Representatives, his majesty's political adviser, the Jordanian ambassador in Washington who is also the head of the Jordanian delegation to the peace negotiations, and the U.S. ambassador in Amman.

During his visit to Washington, his majesty will be joined by a senior political and economic delegation comprising a number of experts in political and economic affairs.

Al-Majali on Tripartite Talks, Husayn-Rabin Meeting

NC2207072194 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0510 GMT 22 Jul 94

[Telephone interview with Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali, in Amman, by Shihatah Abu-al-Majd, in Cairo; date not given; from the "Dialogue From Afar" program—recorded]

[Text] [Abu-al-Majd] Dr. al-Majali, welcome to the Voice of the Arabs.

[Al-Majali] Thank you.

[Abu-al-Majd] What are the most important results of the recent meeting between you and the Israeli officials in Jordan?

[Al-Majali] The tripartite meeting was the third of its kind. It was part of the activity of a committee set up last year during His Royal Highness Prince Hasan's visit [to Washington]. The meeting, held on the foreign ministers' level, came to highlight the new moves on the Jordanian-Israeli negotiating track after Israel accepted that a direct committee be formed to demarcate the border and discuss water rights and other issues. After this obstacle was removed, his majesty the king announced that he was ready, if progress was made, to meet the Israeli prime minister to give a boost to the peace process. We are always eager to see the other

negotiating tracks, the Syrian and Lebanese, move ahead, because peace must be comprehensive in the region.

[Abu-al-Majd] What are the most important subjects on which the Jordanians focused? It is said, for instance, that there are joint economic projects among Jordan, Israel, and Egypt. What is Jordan concentrating on?

[Al-Majali] We are concentrating on basic firm rights. Then we can discuss every kind of project that can be launched bilaterally or on the regional level. On the bilateral level—many projects look bilateral but actually concern the region as a whole—there is, for example, the road that links Africa with Asia, a road between al-'Aqabah and Taba through Elat. This is an important project that links Africa with Asia. It is a short road but it facilitates movement and serves all the concerned parties. And many other projects can be raised. Take tourism: It may be raised on the bilateral level and in the multilateral talks, because it concerns the region in general, especially Egypt. When tourism is carefully planned, tourists can be brought to Egypt, Israel, Palestine, Jordan, Syria, and Lebanon; this is very important for the whole region. These are some of the issues that may be raised along with others.

[Abu-al-Majd] King Husayn and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin will soon meet under the supervision of President Bill Clinton. What has the Jordanian negotiator prepared for this very important meeting, which may constitute a major turning point between Jordan and Israel?

[Al-Majali] I do not think there will be negotiations as such. The meeting concludes all our activities, boosts the process, makes things clear, and proves to the entire world that things have changed and that the peace process is moving slowly but surely toward its objectives.

[Abu-al-Majd] Will there be anything new or do you prefer to conceal things until the dimensions of the meeting become clear?

[Al-Majali] We are hiding nothing. We are working in broad daylight. There are no secrets. But when his majesty visits... [pauses] We went there a month ago and we discussed Jordanian-U.S. relations and the debts owed by Jordan to the United States and elsewhere. The United States helped us in the Paris Club to delay and reschedule the debts. We are grateful. It really was a help. Now we hope this help will continue.

[Abu-al-Majd] Do you think the next Husayn-Rabin meeting will result in rewards and privileges for Jordan to encourage further progress in the negotiations with Israel?

[Al-Majali] If we are discussing the need to carefully consider the standard of living and the individual's income in Jordan compared with that in the neighboring countries, and the need to help Jordan raise this standard, then this, undoubtedly, is one of our ambitions. We hope we can achieve this so that peace can be concluded involving people on about the same economic level, not under the current huge gap in the region.

[Abu-al-Majd] Are you coordinating with the other Arab sides, particularly Syria?

[Al-Majali] We always believe in coordination. Our cards are always on the table and we hope this will always be the case. We believe that if peace is not comprehensive, it will not be lasting. It is in Jordan's interest that progress is made on the Syrian, Lebanese, and Palestinian tracks. Those sides also have the same interests. We believe in coordination and we always raise its banner.

[Abu-al-Majd] Thank you, Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali.

[Al-Majali] You are welcome.

Hasan Explains Approach To Peace Process

MM2107161194 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 20 Jul 94 p 5

[Interview with Crown Prince Hasan by Salamah Ni'mat in Amman; date not given]

[Text] [Ni'mat] Jordan obtained U.S. commitments to provide economic and military aid in return for the Jordanian role in the peace process and King Husayn's agreement to meet with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin. The question is: What did Israel offer in return for the meeting?

[Hasan] First of all the negotiation process is not with the United States. It is with Israel. And Jordan is exercising its rights of sovereignty by inviting the party concerned directly to negotiate on the ground over the water, environment, and security. The process is a clarification of this right of sovereignty. Second, without confirming that there is no U.S.-Jordanian barter as regards economic aid. [sentence as published] I believe that the Jordanian position is clear and based on fixed principles. I also believe that there is U.S. recognition of what Jordan has offered and is offering toward peace and stability in this region.

[Ni'mat] But did Jordan in return obtain guarantees from Israel or indications about its willingness to recognize Jordanian sovereignty over the land and water, as it did when it recognized Syrian sovereignty over the Golan Heights?

[Hasan] The issue of recognizing sovereignty again is not out of the picture, just because sovereignty has not been exercised over this land for a period of time, especially the southern area since 1967. It does not mean that there is an excuse for evading recognition of that sovereignty. For our part, we obviously call for restoring the right to exercise sovereignty over land and resources so that we can move on from the basic matters, namely factual and legal surveys, various stands, and political classification, to the negotiations.

[Ni'mat] Does Jordan make it conditional that there should first be clear progress in the negotiations over the bilateral issues concerning land and water before entering into joint plans within the framework of the tripartite agreement with U.S. participation?

[Hasan] I believe that there is a clear commitment. It is a preliminary step toward agreeing on various matters, economic and social.

[Ni'mat] Jordan participated in the peace process on the basis of the implementation of Security Council Resolution 242. But after what happened in Oslo, the progress made on the Palestinian-Israeli track, and the Jordanian-Israeli negotiation, is there any deviation from the foundations of the peace process agreed in Madrid? And does Jordan still believe that the final outcome of the peace process will be the implementation of Resolution 242?

[Hasan] Jordan was one of whose who made Resolution 242, and it will remain committed to Resolution 242. Because exercising rights of sovereignty over Jordanian territory after the 1967 war, in the southern sector for example, or in the north, does not affect—and this is clear in the Jordanian-Israeli agenda—the territories occupied in 1967. Jordan will not abandon that sovereignty except to Palestinian Arab identity over Palestinian national soil. It will not abandon that sovereignty to the State of Israel, which is occupying these territories.

[Ni'mat] What is the state of Jordanian-Israeli relations after recent developments? Are contacts being made with Damascus to brief it on these developments, their nature, and the steps they could produce as regards the peace process?

[Hasan] Diplomatic channels are naturally open between us and Damascus. But when we talk about the management of the peace process since Madrid, the cosponsors, the United States and Russia, are in practice responsible for bringing the parties' views closer. It is noted that the U.S. secretary of state will visit Amman, Damascus, and obviously Israel and the occupied Palestinian territories. It seems to me that the current contacts are comprehensive.

[Ni'mat] Some people believe that Jordan's recovery of its occupied territories before a peace treaty is signed could set a precedent for the Syrian and Lebanese tracks. Is Jordan working to recover its territory and water rights before a peace agreement is signed?

[Hasan] You should note that the talk about water deals in practice with organizing surface water and the possibility of solving immediate problems like pollution and the overlap among water, energy, and environment. But when we talk about ground water and water consumption and take account of the aspect concerning the refugees—and it is a fundamental part of the Jordanian-[Israeli] agenda—I believe that these issues have not been, nor will they be, resolved except through a comprehensive regional view, and this is very clear.... A state cannot exercise its independent decisionmaking for the sake of monopoly, but we are exercising our independent decisionmaking to clarify to others, wherever they are, that we are seeking to clarify the picture.

[Ni'mat] Has there been any indication from the Syrians of their objection to the recent Jordanian move?

[Hasan] It is clear from the media that there are conflicting and varied views on the scene. However, I believe that when we talk about the responsible official position in both fraternal countries, there is a move toward international, in particular U.S. diplomacy at this stage.

[Ni'mat] King Husayn said a few days ago that Jordan is subject to pressures which could lead to its collapse or partition. Can you throw some light on the nature of these pressures, external or internal?

[Hasan] I believe that the marginalization of states and governments is clear before our eyes in the Balkans. I also believe that failure to move in 1994 toward building a threshold or a ground for peace in the Middle East region would mean all forms of extremism, racial and sectarian. Let us look and see what has happened in fraternal Yemen over recent months, namely the bloody conflicts. Let us look at other Arab states. Let us admit that operating within the political and legal framework and fixed principles in which we all believe is a very important matter. For example, with regard to the economic aspect, Zhirinovskiy, who is known to lead a school of extremism within Russia today, says that, if the Russian economy were healthy, it would not have popular platforms [sentence as published]. So I believe that containing the possibility of a further widening of the gap between us and Israel..., since for example, per capita income is $800 for Palestinians and $15,000 for Israelis, and Israel is demanding to be put on the same level with Greece, Portugal, and Ireland as a poor state from the European viewpoint; will this widening of the gap serve security, which begins basically with people? [sentence as published]

[Ni'mat] Are we to understand from that that the economic and social aspect is the foundation for security stability for Jordan?

[Hasan] I believe that the basic factor is the complete harmony with and support for the national charter and the consensus over the will to change the situation for the better, in addition to relying on democratic principles, which acknowledge that views can differ sometimes and which stress the allocation of roles so that the process can continue and ascend to the highest of levels in the world's view. As we are at the end of the century and approaching the beginning of the 21st century, and we must look at the distinct role that we are hoping Jordan will play on the international stage.

[Ni'mat] Israeli Foreign Minister Shimo'n Peres will visit Jordan for the first time to attend the tripartite

meeting near the Dead Sea. Can the visit be seen as a step toward normalizing bilateral relations with Israel, or is it an exceptional event?

[Hasan] I believe—if I may be permitted to say so—that the question is not accurate in that form, because the choice is not between an exceptional event and normalization. Let us in practice look at war and peace, and in the absence of Arab coalition rapprochement we choose between a greater and a lesser evil. However, this is not the tenor of my answer. I believe that the issue of exchanging visits between a Jordanian location on the Dead Sea and an Israeli location is part of what the United States believes will move views closer to the experienced reality. Once again, I would like to say that the issue of the bilateral negotiations ended or almost ended in Washington before the recent development. The bilateral negotiations began in the framework of the Syrian-U.S. talks, the Palestinian-Israeli talks, and naturally, implicitly the tripartite talks, namely the Syrian-U.S.-Israeli talks. I believe that this approach is in reality part of the stage through which we are living with regard to endeavors to achieve peace. However, it does not mean that peace is near, unless efforts are exerted through media services like this one to clarify that the aim is characterized by a definite desire to move toward better times.

[Ni'mat] How do you view the future of the peace process? Have we reached the point of no return in the process, or are there possible setbacks?

[Hasan] I believe that the possibility exists that the peace march could falter, and it is conceivable because numerous parties are hostile to this march, both at the Arab and Israeli levels. I believe that it is important that we begin the process, proceeding from a conviction and adhering to fixed principled based on legitimacy, a clear political vision, and the necessity to exercise the right of sovereignty over our national territory and resources.

[Ni'mat] How would you assess Jordanian opposition to the peace process?

[Hasan] Naturally, any oppositionist is entitled to express his view. But I hope that it will be the kind of disagreement that does not spoil the cause. Because we really are proud of Jordanian democracy and the Jordanian charter. And I hope that the dialogue will be the type that glorifies positive aspects and discusses negative aspects, if any should exist, through the allocation of roles so that we can shoulder our responsibilities together. We have have one cause. For example, the need to stress the Arab-Christian right to the holy city. I believe that no one disagrees with this approach.

[Ni'mat] It has been said that the king's meeting with the Israeli prime minister next Monday is rich in political meaning and weak in substance, in the sense that no agreement will be announced on anything tangible.

[Hasan] I believe that it is not in the interests of the event to run ahead of it. Numerous meetings have constituted a media event but failed to offer anything tangible on the ground. However, I believe that the decisive criterion in all this is our ability to stress that the Jordanian negotiator is *in practice capable of moving forward in* 1994, which I considered earlier as the year of the promised peace. But it is a rational and realistic march, and I believe that the upcoming meeting, with its symbolic meaning, will be a meeting for stressing the use of reason and realism in the approach. And as his majesty the king said, it will not be a peace at any price.

IAF Deputy Rejects Jordan-Israel Talks

JN2107173694 Amman AKHBAR AL-USBU' in Arabic 21 Jul 94 p 1

["Exclusive"]

[Text] Amman—Deputy Hamzah Mansur, official spokesman for the deputies of the Islamic Action Front [IAF], has called for the resignation of the government and the formation of a national salvation government. He said: We reject the Jordanian-Israeli negotiations because they are not based on the Jordanian people's option and will.

He added: The Jordanian Government has come to undermine democracy and to find a weak House of Representatives through which it can implement its policies of negotiations. He said that this government is not qualified to lead the people.

He expressed the hope that Jordan and Israel will not reach an agreement.

Opposition Groups Protest Talks With Israel

MM2107141594 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 20 Jul 94 p 2

[Unattributed report: "Jordanian Pan-Arab Front Issues Statement Attacking the Authorities and Urging Discontinuation of the Negotiations"]

[Text] Amman, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—The Pan-Arab Action Front [PAF] has accused the Jordanian authorities of ceding Arab sovereignty over all of Palestine. It said that these authorities, who had never before declared that there were Jordanian occupied territories and had not claimed such territories since they were occupied, were now presenting that issue as a matter of sovereignty and initiating negotiations not only on the territory and usurped rights but also on peace plans that would turn Jordan into a part of a U.S.-Zionist organization also embodying the Zionist entity and the autonomy authority.

That came after the Islamic Action Front [IAF] issued a number of statements against the negotiations and the Jordanian-Israeli steps.

The PAF spelled out its position in a statement emphasizing that it was all for the restoration of any territory or right usurped by the enemy east or west of the river, in

the Golan, or in southern Lebanon, but the restoration of any part should not be at the expense of other parts.

The statement described the current peace negotiations as a submission to Israeli terms even on the method of the negotiations. It urged the authorities to discontinue these efforts because continuation means defying the people and forfeiting the inalienable pan-Arab principles.

The PAF said in its statement that it feared that disregard for the people's will would certainly lead to martial law, as in the past and every time there was a U.S.-Jordanian rapprochement and a move toward understanding with Israel.

The statement said that the economic problems cannot be solved by continuation of the policy of borrowing and aid, because that policy has been proved a failure in all the states applying it. It accused the state of acting as a totalitarian ruling party using its media to pursue a certain line preventing anyone who disagrees or opposes from expressing his views.

It urged the Jordanian people and all the parties and forces who care about the homeland's interests to take a firm stand against that policy, to compel the authorities to stop these negotiations and respond to the will of the people.

University Students Protest Al-Majali-Peres Meeting

JN2107105694 Amman AL-SABIL in Arabic 19-25 Jul 94 p 8

[Text] The Islamic trend at Jordan University has organized a large student rally to express popular rejection and denunciation of the [Jordanian] prime minister's meeting with the foreign minister of the Israeli enemy. The students expressed their rejection of the peace process and meeting with Israeli enemy leaders. They called for closing ranks against normalization.

The University Student Council has also issued a statement on the latest political developments, denouncing the acceleration of an agreement with the Israeli enemy.

Paper Views Trilateral Economic Committee Meetings

JN2207081494 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 22 Jul 94 pp 1, 20

[Editorial: "The Criterion To Achieve Peace"]

[Text] The trilateral economic committee, which met at the level of experts yesterday, has made an achievement in terms of concepts and ideas that can open a new era in the region, if all the proposals are implemented and if they are provided with a political basis, financial capabilities, and continued international support.

No doubt, the U.S. side's participation in these meetings brought an additional seriousness to all these proposed projects and provided them with the credibility they deserve, especially since the U.S. role in implementing the development projects is major and indispensable .

The trilateral economic committee concluded its work on the Dead Sea shore yesterday as its members looked forward to the historic scheduled meeting between His Majesty King Husayn and the Israeli prime minister in Washington on 25 July, as guests of U.S. President Bill Clinton and the U.S. Congress.

We hope this important meeting will be more than just the mere breaking of the psychological barrier which the Israeli prime minister talked about yesterday, especially since the achievements of the trilateral economic committee can be the main basis for the working program that will be discussed in the scheduled Jordanian-Israeli summit.

Therefore, if the projects to promote the Jordan Valley, which were discussed by the Jordanian-U.S.-Israeli economic committee, are to be implemented in the near future, the peace we seek will then demonstrate its tangible practical implications and move from the state of peace on paper to the state of implementation, so the people can see and sense its direct results.

Hence, the implementation of the programs, ideas, and projects designed to make a radical and positive change in the Jordan Valley, as well as other aspects of joint action, will be the real criterion for the success this track may achieve at the desired end of the peace process.

Columnist Criticizes Government, Media on Talks

JN2107204094 Amman AL-SABIL in Arabic 19-25 Jul 94 p 4

["Jordanian Papers" column by Samih al-Ma'aytah: "Forging Jordanians' Will"]

[Text] The way the official and semi-official media organs last week handled Jordanians' trends and stands toward negotiations on the Jordanian track with the Zionist enemy is very painful and illogic. After King Husayn met and talked to the deputies and ministers, the official and semi-official mass media organs held press, television, and radio interviews with citizens on the government's negotiations policy and its previous and later steps.

The subject of the interviews was King Husayn's speech to the deputies, of which a large part was devoted to the issue of negotiations. Everyone knows well that only a few dare in public to discuss King Husayn's speech in a manner that would conflict with the government's trends, and even if some people dare to, the discussions will not be published. The official and semi-official mass media organs tried to make King Husayn's speech the focus of discussion, although the most important issue was the government's policy and its latest trends.

By doing this, the media created real barriers and obstacles to prevent any reservation or rejection even by pro-government people. What is also important is the types of citizens sought out by the official media in the press and the television. All these citizens were singing the praises of the government, and even some of the statements made by the very very small number of anti-government citizens interviewed by some media organs were either concealed or distorted. What happened to Deputy Bassam al-'Umush was an example.

The policy being pursued by the official and semi-official mass media organs is clearly forging the will and position of the Jordanians. Not all Joranians support the government's policy and its panting after Rabin and Peres, not all Jordanians are happy over upcoming meetings with Rabin and Peres, not all Jordanians believe in the government's justifications for its rush, and not all Jordanians believe the stories of pressure, armament of the Armed Forces, and the debt cancellation that is always exploited to persuade people of the historic negotiations and their trend in Jordan's politics.

Simple logic indicates that more than 20 deputies object to the negotiations and reject the government's policy. They constitute more than 25 percent of the House of Representatives. Do these people not have the right to express their views on what is taking place in our democratic state!! Do they not represent large sectors and ideological and political trends of Jordanians, who are honest to their homeland and their nation? The most important question is: Where are the Jordanian parties and their positions in the official and semi-official mass media organs? It is true that the government is not required to extend media services to the parties. But as the purpose is to express the Jordanians' decisions and trends, the government has no right to misrepresent our will and decision and to hint that all Jordanians and their forces support the government's steps and policy.

The world is small, and awareness is so high. Therefore, such steps will negatively affect the government's credibility. We do not want another national conference like the one held on 15 October 1991 and which announced Jordan's decision to take part in the Madrid conference. That national conference was considered a popular referendum on the decision, although the deputies, mayors, and heads of rural councils were only listeners and applauders and did not represent any one other than themselves and possibly their wives!

Although I deeply regret such practices, I feel happy because they show the government's weak position and its fear of the existing counter views rejecting and refuting current justifications and arguments.

Because we love Jordan and belong to it, we beseech Almighty God that the present and the next government will not become like 'Arafat and his clique, who are now facing some of the results of their panting after the Zionists who are humiliating, despising, and exploiting that clique.

New Muslim Brotherhood Leader, Members Elected

JN2207064194 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 22 Jul 94 p 1

[Text] Amman—The Shura Council of the Muslim Brotherhood in Jordan has elected 'Abd-al-Majid Dhunaybat as controller general of the Brotherhood after that Controller General Muhammad 'Abd-al-Rahman Khalifah has expressed the wish not to continue in office in order to give a chance to the person the Shura Council will choose for this post.

Shaykh 'Abd-al-Rahim al-'Ukur was elected deputy controller general. Dr. 'Adnan Jaljuli, Dawud Qawjaq, Salim al-Falahat, Jamil Abu-Bakr, and 'Imad Abu-Diyah were elected members of the executive bureau.

Al-'Aqabah Monitoring Pact Signed With Lloyds

JN2207101394 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 22 Jul 94 pp 1, 27

[Report by 'Isam Qadamani]

[Text] Amman—Jordan and the Lloyds Register company yesterday signed an agreement according to which monitoring of Jordanian goods will be transferred from the high seas to the Port of al-'Aqabah.

In a press statement, Transportation Minister Engineer Samir Qa'war said implementing the articles of this agreement will begin following organizational and administrative arrangements between the company and the general ports corporation. Goods bound for the Port of al-'Aqabah will be surveyed and assessed by company employees, instead of on the high seas by U.S. Naval forces stationed in the Straits of Tiran.

Qa'war added that the new measures will facilitate things for importers, which will be reflected to the citizens. All ships bound for the Port of al-'Aqabah will be loaded with their correct cargo. This will reduce the freight rates. There will be normal delivery of these imports to Jordan because they will not be unloaded in several ports or reshipped to the Port of al-'Aqabah. This used to affect the quality and cost of these imports.

The minister said: We took large strides in this regard as a prelude to finally ending the suffering caused by the blockade imposed on the port. He noted that Lloyds Register will receive fees from importers and merchants in the form of refundable fees. These fees will be deposited in a special account through the United Nations. Later, the fees will be returned to the merchants from the Security Council's fund for paying compensation for damages caused by the Gulf crisis. These fees will be paid monthly.

The minister explained that the contract concluded with the company is an open contract that will expire once the reason for signing it ends. He said one month is needed to begin implementing these measures, during which a

number of administrative and organizational matters will be discussed with the company before it starts work.

Iraqi-Jordanian Land Transport Company Assembly Meets

JN2107192394 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 21 Jul 94

[Text] Minister of Transportation Engineer Samir Qa'war today inaugurated meetings of the general assembly of the Iraqi-Jordanian Land Transport Company.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified correspondent] Transportation Minister Engineer Samir Qa'war said the Jordanian Government gives special attention to joint Arab action, and this is positively reflected by inter-Arab relations.

He added that the company is considered a model of successful joint Arab action, and said it is important to improve the company's activities to cope with the changes in the next stage.

Dr. Ahmad Murtada Ahmad, Iraqi minister of transport and communications spoke about the pioneering role the company is playing in servicing the economies of the two brotherly countries. He emphasized that support for the company by the Jordanian and Iraqi sides is a priority for the transport ministries in both countries. He added that this will reflect positively on the company and will improve its performance.

The company's Director General Engineer Aysar al-Safi spoke to the radio station and said:

[Al-Safi] The assembly adopted a host of decisions to spark the company's performance and to make this company a pioneer in spite of the conditions under which it is suffering. We hope, praise be to God, that this company will remain a nucleus of joint Arab action and will carry its services to both Jordan and Iraq in a very efficient manner through the support it is receiving from the Jordanian and Iraqi ministers of transportation. If fact, the operational plan for this year was endorsed and the budget for 1993 was approved. The results of the budget showed a profit of 1.8 million Jordanian dinars. We hope, God willing, that in the next years the profits will be as planned and the company will be a pioneering company in the Arab homeland. [end recording]

Suspects in Explosion Case Appear in Court

JN1907092494 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 19 Jul 94 p 3

[Report by a staff reporter]

[Text] Amman—Twenty-one suspects charged with membership in an illegal organisation and plotting and carrying out sabotage with the aim of toppling the regime appeared at the State Security Court on Monday for pre-trial proceedings which mainly involved appointing defence lawyers.

A 22nd suspect who lost his legs in a premature explosion while allegedly trying to plant a bomb at a cinema house in al-Zarqa' did not appear before the three-member panel of judges since he was still in hospital under police custody. He was represented by a lawyer.

Three other suspects remain at large and will be tried in absentia.

Two of the fugitives are non-Jordanian and all other suspects except one are of Palestinian origin, most of them under 25 years old.

After completing the procedures of registering defence lawyers and naming court-appointed counsel for those who requested it, presiding Judge Brigadier General Hafiz Amin set Aug. 27 as the trial date followed by three sessions on consecutive days (the judiciary branch takes its annual holiday between July 27 and Aug. 27).

The suspects will be formally charged on Aug. 27.

A 10-page document charges the suspects with belonging to an illegal organisation with the objective of trying to topple the regime through subversion, plotting and carrying out subversive activities, illegal possession of explosives and covering up crimes related to national security.

Expected to be produced in court are 15 witnesses and evidence ranging from weapons and explosives seized during raids on suspects' homes and other places and documents as well as confessions during interrogations.

The prosecution, judicial sources said, seeks to prove that the group, which opposed the regime and rejected the Middle East peace process, planned and carried out bombings at cinema theatres showing pornographic movies and a liquor store, plotted to assassinate Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali when he was head of the Jordanian peace negotiating team, and Palestinian personalities Faysal al-Husayni and Hanan 'Ashrawi, and attacks on secrity officials.

The cinema blasts, one in downtown Amman on Jan. 26 and the other in al-Zarqa' on Feb. 2, injuried more than a dozen people. Bombs planted at two other theatres and a supermarket selling alcohol were discovered and defused.

The suspects will also be charged with setting ablaze the car of a Palestinian resident of the al-Baq'ah refugee camp outside Amman. The man was known to be a supporter of the Arab-Israeli peace process launched in Spain in 1991.

The illegal group is not formally named in the charge sheet, but "Arab Afghans" is widely used to describe the suspects in a reference to the status of some of them as

volunteers who fought alongside the Afghan Mujahedin during the 1980-90 Soviet military intervention in Afghanistan.

The prosecution says that the organisation's objectives included "setting up an Islamic caliphate, fighting the infidel Arab regimes, resisting the (Arab-Israeli) peace process, using force to fight things forbidden in Islam, and fighting the Jews and Americans by striking at their interests."

If convicted, some of the suspects face the death penalty. The minimum punishment, according to the penal code, will be five years in prison.

At least two of the suspects are identified as members of the Muslim Brotherhood and some others as former members of the Palestine Liberation Army (PLA), the military wng of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

Christopher's Visit To Be Discussed With Syria

NC2107173494 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 21 Jul 94

[Remarks by Information Minister Michel Samahah in response to questions by unidentified correspondents following a cabinet meeting chaired by President Ilyas al-Hirawi at the Presidential Palace in Beirut on 21 July—recorded]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Correspondent] In view of the recent Lebanese-Syrian meetings, has the cabinet discussed the regional and international climate surrounding the peace talks?

[Samahah] President al-Hirawi opened the session by reiterating the Lebanese and Lebanese-Syrian stand concerning the negotiations. However, we have no information about the ideas brought along by U.S. Secretary Warren Christopher or the outcome of his talks with President Hafiz al-Asad and the Syrian leadership in Damascus. The Lebanese officials are waiting for Christopher's tour to end before seeking such information from Syrian officials.

[Correspondent] Does this mean that an expanded Lebanese-Syrian meeting will be held soon?

[Samahah] Such a meeting may take place, but no date has been set yet. [passage omitted]

Defendant Gets Hard Labor for Killing U.S. Ambassador

NC2107113394 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1030 GMT 21 Jul 94

[Text] A criminal court presided over by Judge George Ghantus had dropped charges against defendant Basim al-Firkh. It sentenced defendant Namiq Namal to four years of hard labor and ordered him to pay the cost of the trial.

The two defendants were tried for the assassination of U.S. Ambassador in Lebanon Francis Melloy and two others in the Ra's al- Nab' area in Beirut in 1976.

Israeli Shelling, Overflights, Casualties Reported

NC2107173594 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 21 Jul 94

[Text] At 1045, 1445, and 1725 today, the occupation forces stationed in al-Zaffatah shelled Iqlim al-Tuffah, Mlita, Jabal Safi, and al-Luwayzah. Israeli planes overflew al-Nabatiyah and Iqlim al- Tuffah today. A man was killed and another wounded in Israeli shelling of Mashgharah.

Israeli, Resistance Activity in South Reported

NC2207072294 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0430 GMT 22 Jul 94

[Text] According to reports from the south and western al-Biqa' this morning, extreme tension prevails in the liberated areas adjoining the occupied border strip following attacks carried out against these areas during the past few hours. One civilian was killed and another wounded when an Israeli tank opened machine-gun fire at shepherds near Mashgharah in western al-Biqa'.

The occupation forces have shelled the Jabal al-Rafi' hills, Mlita, al-Luwayzah, and the Nab' al-Tasah basin in Iqlim al-Tuffah, while enemy aircraft continue to fly over the south.

Israeli armored movements were reported during the past 24 hours along the contact line in the eastern sector. The occupation forces put out the lights in most of the main posts and deployed Merkava tanks equipped with night vision instruments in some of them. The occupation forces are reportedly conducting constant training with live ammunition.

Israeli armored movements were also reported in the Kawkaba-(Suq al-Khan) sector. According to reports from the occupied village of Shab'a, an Israeli force carried out a raking operation in the north of the village. This was preceded by Israeli shelling from (Tallat Sadana) at the (Jan'im) sector, where eight shells fell.

A delegation of occupation forces officers made a field tour of military positions in the eastern sector yesterday and supervised the measures taken at these positions facing those of the Islamic Resistance.

The occupation forces have kidnapped Hasan Abu-'Abbas from al-Khiyam and taken him to a detention camp on the pretext that he collaborated with the Resistance fighters.

Resistance fighters have attacked enemy concentrations in the Tallusah position recently established by the occupation forces.

Prime Minister Leaves for Nice for Vacation

NC2107164694 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 21 Jul 94

[Text] Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri flew from Beirut to Nice aboard his private plane at 1830 today. He will spend a few days of vacation there.

U.S. Secretary Christopher Arrives in Damascus

JN2207083694 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0815 GMT 22 Jul 94

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher and his wife arrived in Damascus at 1030 today on a visit to Syria. He was welcomed at Damascus International Airport by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', his wife and several senior Foreign Ministry officials, the Syrian ambassador in Washington, and the U.S. ambassador in Damascus.

Al-Asad Confers With Christopher

JN2207100494 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0915 GMT 22 Jul 94

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher at the People's Palace at 1100 today. The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and Dennis Ross, the U.S. general coordinator of the Middle East peace process.

Christopher's Tour, Israel's 'Intransigence' Viewed

JN2207080294 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 22 Jul 94

[Press review]

[Text] In an editorial today entitled "The Dues Of Peace And Returning Rights To Their Owners," AL-BA'TH discusses Secretary of State Warren Christopher's current tour in the region. The paper says it is very difficult to say anything specific about Christopher's tour because Israel still insists on its positions that reject the resolutions of international legitimacy, whose implementation is a basic requirement for a just and comprehensive peace in the region.

AL-BA'TH notes that Israel talks a great deal about peace, but in fact has spared no effort to divert the peace process from its correct path. The Oslo Agreement and subsequent penetrations provide conclusive proof of this fact.

The paper stresses that Syria rejects any solution that is not comprehensive and just. AL-BA'TH says: What happened in Oslo and elsewhere cannot in any way achieve peace, because genuine peace can only be achieved within the framework of a comprehensive settlement that returns rights in full to the people who have those rights.

The paper adds: Syria, which persistently seeks to ensure the success of the peace process—and this was stressed by leader al- Asad to U.S. Secretary Christopher—believes the principles and foundations of the peace process are available and must be the source for every move toward the achievement of the just and comprehensive peace.

AL-BA'TH notes that Israel will continue to procrastinate and evade the dues of genuine peace unless it is confronted with serious and decisive positions that will end its present policy, which prevents any progress in efforts to move the peace process forward.

AL-THAWRAH writes in a commentary on peace about intransigence and Christopher's tour. It says: Like previous times, Syria will stress to the U.S. secretary its keenness to achieve a just and comprehensive peace and its desire to ensure the success of his mission, which is still stumbling because of the hurdles Israel has been putting in place since this process started more than two and a half years ago in Madrid.

AL-THAWRAH adds: In view of this Israeli position and Israel's repeated confirmation of the existence of a major gap between the Syrian and Israeli positions, genuine peace is still far away. In this case, no "goodwill" or a "peace formula" can be attributed to the partial solutions Israel is still trying to promote under the pretext of peace, which is still missing in these incomplete proposals that only guarantee Israel's interests in hegemony and a devouring peace.

AL-THAWRAH stresses that Syria, which will receive Christopher today, has made clear its certain desire to establish just and comprehensive peace and has seriously and sincerely responded favorably to all sincere efforts. The paper adds: This can be seen now in its dealing and its cooperation with the U.S. efforts. Syria also expressed its readiness to bring about a successful end to the peace process on its well-known foundations; the implementation of the pertinent UN Security Council resolutions. Without that, peace cannot see daylight. Syria responds positively to the correct foundations of peace and does not bargain, compliment, or yield when it comes to the issue of land and rights. This is a firm position that is well known to everyone.

Concluding its commentary, AL-THAWRAH asks the United States to play the role of full partner to ensure the success of the peace process.

In another commentary, AL-THAWRAH says: It is now clear to the world community, and the U.S. cosponsor in particular, that Israel is the only party that refuses to deal seriously with, and abide by, the peace process. It intentionally maneuvers and kills time in order to strike at the peace process, evade its substance, skip over the facts and basic causes of the conflict, and impose new realities in order to entrench occupation and replace the formula of just and comprehensive peace with partial settlements and separate solutions that have proved they were incomplete and cannot survive. The world is now witnessing examples and the repercussions of these solutions in the Oslo and Gaza-Jericho agreements, which wasted the Palestinian people's rights and failed to protect the lives of Palestinians.

AL-THAWRAH concludes its commentary by saying: Just like every time he has come to Damascus, Christopher felt Syria's positive attitude and concern for peace

and its desire to rescue the process. The world at large has also begun to realize the importance of and the need to activate the U.S. role in correspondence with the nature of the mission and large and serious international responsibility. It has also begun to realize the need to take a decisive stand to assert credibility and commitment, as expressed by President Hafiz al-Asad, to achieve the just and comprehensive peace, the peace of the courageous according to which, and under which all manifestations of aggression, injustice, and occupation are terminated.

Radio: Up to Cosponsors To Save Peace Process

JN2107170994 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1136 GMT 21 Jul 94

[Station commentary]

[Text] Syria accepts no alternatives to the framework of justice and comprehensiveness in discussing peace and seeking to achieve it. The United States and the world realize that Syria is serious about achieving this peace—a peace based on UN resolutions which the Madrid conference adopted as the term of reference and basis of the peace process.

In the two and a half years since the Madrid conference and the start of the bilateral talks, Syria emphasized its commitment to the agreements reached at the Madrid conference. The U.S. and Russian cosponsors of the peace process pledged to implement these agreements.

During his latest talks with President Hafiz al-Asad, Warren Christopher, the chief of U.S. diplomacy, heard the president reiterate Syria's aspirations of rendering the peace process a success, especially on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks, based on its foundations in order to achieve a just and comprehensive peace in the region. Only such a peace, aspired to by Syria and defined by international resolutions and the Madrid principles, meets the true meaning of peace and carries its pillars.

Israel's full withdrawal from the Golan, southern Lebanon, and the occupied Arab territories, is an inevitable prelude to a peace that carries with it stability and security and removes threats and possibilities of multifaceted eruptions. Otherwise, a real peace can never be established. If established, it will be a deficient and incomplete peace—one that carries with it the elements of weakness and collapse.

What has happened and is happening to the Gaza-Jericho agreement stands as a very clear witness to the shortcomings of this agreement, which was called peace. Confrontations inside the occupied territories are continuing instead of being removed. This is a result of the Palestinian people's feeling of being cheated and the above-mentioned agreement's failure to achieve the minimum demands and rights guaranteed by UN resolutions and recognized at the Madrid conference. This made the Palestinian citizen feel the continuation of the oppression which made many factions announce, in various ways, their rejection of the agreement, thus adhering to their right through the practical implementation of UN resolutions and the land-for-peace principle, based on which the Madrid conference and the U.S initiative were launched.

The strength of the Syrian stand stems from this premise. It shows that Syria is clinging to its right and is committed to the principles of international legitimacy as a basis for achieving a just and comprehensive peace which guarantees Israel's withdrawal and the removal of the occupation as a basic condition to establishing peace. This peace should guarantee security to all, fulfill the desire of the international community, and maintain the prestige of international law. Syria always announced its support for the just implementation of UN resolutions and the applicationn of single standards to maintain the credibility of the United Nations and security and peace in the region and the world.

Meanwhile, everyday, Israel continues to present a living example aimed at foiling efforts to achieve a just peace and at destroying the credibility of international law, not only through the incomplete unilateral agreements it is seeking to conclude, but also through the policy of killing, kidnapping, and violating the sanctity of sovereign states as we see in Lebanon.

This makes it inevitable for the Russian and U.S. cosponsors, especially the U.S. cosponsor, the owner of the basic initiative, to implement Madrid's term of reference and the land-for-peace principle to save the peace process from the threat posed by the Israeli policy of continued aggression against the Arab territory and human being. This policy represents a clear violation of international law and an overt disdain of UN resolutions.

Does Secretary Christopher's tour carry a new move on the level of pushing the Israeli policy toward respecting international legitimacy and its resolutions in order to achieve a just and comprehensive peace in the region?

None of the observers have thus far seen any realistic change in Israel's stands and policy which is still hostile to the pillars of a just peace.

Afghanistan

Rabbani Discusses Ties With India, Pakistan

LD2107230394 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Dari 1600 GMT 21 Jul 94

[Statement by President Borhanoddin Rabbani at a meeting with unidentified Pakistani and Kashmiri correspondents "yesterday"; place not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Rabbani] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. [Break in transmission] ...however, we must say with regret that there are and were people in Pakistan who regard their own individual interests or their own particular objectives above the strategic Islamic interest of the Pakistani nation. These people in various ways are involved in causing instability in Afghanistan and in continuing the fighting in Afghanistan. They even take part in the massacre of the persecuted people of Afghanistan.

These people do not attach any value or even care for other expedient reasons because of the particular ties; nor do they pay any attention to the will and wishes of the people of Pakistan or people of Afghanistan. These are the very people who recently spread propaganda in Pakistan's press. I read a number of Pakistani papers including PAKISTAN DAILY [as heard]. Quoting [words indistinct] that the State of Afghanistan had allegedly received substantial assistance including military aid from India. [passage indistinct]. I am sure these statements have been made and are made by those people and authorities who are trying to disguise their crimes from the [word indistinct] and from the Muslim nation of Pakistan. They are, of course, worried about their own action that one day their deeds might be investigated and they may be prosecuted in court before the eyes of the people of Pakistan. Therefore, they spread and publish false propaganda and false words, which are totally untrue, and attribute them to the Islamic State of Afghanistan. I am saying that these words are all incorrect.

The people of Pakistan may change their view regarding Afghanistan. They must follow seriously this subject and find out who, with evil intention, make such allegations; and should try to find out their hidden objectives. Do they want to sacrifice the strategic relations and national interests of Pakistan for their own personal objectives? Are they given instructions from outside? Are they being instructed by the enemies of Islam? What are their objective in trying to change good relations between the two fraternal nations? It is a fact that good relations between Afghanistan and Pakistan are in the interests of the two nations and two countries.

I say this openly: that the Islamic State of Afghanistan [words indistinct] we have asked all Islamic countries, other friendly and non-Islamic countries, and international institutions for humanitarian assistance because of the difficulties we are facing. However, even the Islamic states, regrettably, have not yet given any assistance, not even humanitarian assistance, let alone non-Islamic countries.

We hope that our relations improve with the countries in our region. We want our good-neighborly relations to improve. [words indistinct] We want our relations with our fraternal country—Pakistan—to be strong. [passage omitted]

We call on Pakistan's leaders, Pakistan's political figures, and Pakistan's ulema to stop those who are trying to destroy relations between the two countries and those who see their personal interests in the instability in Afghanistan. [words indistinct] These people should be stopped. The past mistakes regarding Afghanistan should not be allowed to be (?repeated). The recent disaster in Afghanistan should not be allowed to be continued and the interests of the two fraternal countries should not be sacrificed for the impure objectives of such individuals.

Once again, I welcome you all. You came here to see the situation closely [words indistinct]. We must respect the will of the people in the two countries. The will of the people in Afghanistan must be respected by our friends in Pakistan. Whichever system we choose, this system of government must be respected by our friends in Pakistan.

[Correspondent] [passage indistinct]

[Rabbani] First of all, I must say that the fighting in Afghanistan was not a civil war from the beginning. Due to foreign interventions the war was imposed on us. We have many reasons to believe that the outside interventions have taken place in a very ruthless and cruel manner. Military and economic assistance have been given to the opposition groups, and this has been continuing. [passage indistinct]

Rockets Damage Turkish, Iranian Embassies

LD2107183894 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 21 Jul 94

[Text] Various areas of Kabul were attacked by over 100 rockets during the past 24 hours fired by the Golboddin-Dostam militias.

Quoting a source of the Kabul garrison the military correspondent of the Bakhtar Information Agency reports that the notorious Karmal-Golboddin-Dostam militias last night and this morning subjected the residential areas and government welfare institutions to 100 rockets and mortar mines, causing damage to a number of houses, government offices, and foreign embassies. The Iranian and Turkish Embassies were also damaged. According to the city's hospitals 10 people were injured today as a result of the landing of rockets.

Opposition Attack in Baghlan Reportedly Fails

LD2107185194 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 21 Jul 94

[Text] In the course of a failed attack by the Dostam-Golboddin militias launched around Baghlan Province, 25 militiamen were killed.

A responsible source of the armed forces reports to the Bakhtar Information Agency that the Dostam-Golboddin militias last night and this morning twice attacked the positions of the Islamic army around [words indistinct] but their attacks were severely defeated. As a result of satisfactory resistance by the mojahedin and the Islamic army's units and companies, 25 militiamen were killed and 14 men of them including several high ranking officers were captured by the mojahedin.

In the course of the courageous defense put up by the mojahedin, they succeeded in setting fire to two tanks, two sets of [word indistinct], and two vehicles. Several militias' positions located in Kelagai were destroyed. The Dostam-Golboddin militias after this severe defeat could not manage to pick the dead bodies up from the battle front. The militias' corpses are still laying on the ground.

Regarding the false claims made by the militias alleging advances in the Doshi and Kelagai areas, a responsible source of the Armed Forces said: The Golboddin-Karmal-Dostam militias did not make any advance in the course of their two-day-long aggression around Baghlan Province but they have lost a number of their positions and suffered many casualties.

Bangladesh

Indian Finance Minister's Budget 'Advice' Viewed

BK2207053194 Dhaka DAINIK INQILAB in Bengali 14 Jul 94 p 1

[Report by Mobaidur Rahman]

[Text] Political groups of this country have expressed their reaction to the advice which Indian Finance Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh gave to Bangladesh and the other SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] member countries during his visit to Bangladesh from July 9 to 12. In an interview with the United News of Bangladesh, the Indian finance minister called upon the SAARC member countries to reduce their military budget with a view to achieving rapid economic development. He further added that the military budget should depend on the security situation of a country. Dr. Singh opined that an environment should be created in the SAARC region which would enable the member countries to reduce their military budget. The unreasonable demand, which was earlier raised by Indian Commerce Minister Pranab Mukherjee and other leaders regarding giving transit facilities to India at Bangladesh's Chittagong Port, was again raised by Dr. Manmohan Singh during his talks with business leaders in Dhaka on July 12.

Political observers in Dhaka and Chittagong have severely reacted to the objectionable statement and unreasonable demand of Dr. Manmohan Singh. They say that the allocation of 18 billion taka, or $450 million, for the defense budget of Bangladesh is quite inadequate in view of the geographical location of this country and its huge population of 120 million. Apart from this, the budgetary allocation for Bangladesh's defense sector is the lowest in the world. The UN Human Development Report published in January 1994 says that India occupies a top position in the list of countries rated as leading importers of arms and also among those spending a huge amount of money on the defense sector. India has the fourth largest army in the world. Its Air Force is the sixth largest in the world, while its Navy is the seventh largest.

Observers say that before advising Bangladesh and other members of the SAARC forum to reduce their military budget, Dr. Manmohan Singh, who is an important Indian minister, should have seen what his country is doing in this regard. Drawing the attention of Mr. Manmohan Singh, they said that during the current fiscal year 1994-95, India has increased its military budget tremendously. It is needless to recall India's past records in this sector. India's population is seven times that of Bangladesh. If calculated in this context, it would be seen that India's military budget should not exceed the maximum limit of 125 billion taka. What was the justification for India to increase its defense budget from 280 billion taka to 360 billion taka last year? India has increased its defense budget by 80 billion taka in only one year. This increase of 80 billion taka is equivalent to the total defense budget of Bangladesh for a period of four and a half years. After all this, why is it advising others to reduce their defense budgets?

Doesn't Dr. Singh know that India has two aircraft carriers whereas Bangladesh does not have even one. India has two nuclear powered submarines while Bangladesh has none. Besides these, India has 14 submarines and five destroyers. Bangladesh has only one submarine and no destroyer.

Observers say that when high officials of India come to Bangladesh and try to give lectures to us on matters relating to defense, it seems that we Bangladeshis are all illiterate and wrong doers. Dr. Manmohan Singh's arsenal will contain 3,500 tanks while we will have not even 100 tanks—what type of talk is this? India will have modern Russian T-72 tanks while we should remain satisfied with only a few dozens of the outdated Chinese-made T-45 and T-54 tanks. The Indians will make the surface-to-surface Agni [fire] missile, with a range of 2,500 miles, and they will also make the surface-to-surface Prithvi [earth] missile, with a range of 1,000 miles. Moreover, India will make the surface-to-air Akash [sky] missile and also manufacture the Nag [cobra] anti-tank missile. On the other hand, Bangladesh

will use the ancient methods of hitting airplanes and tanks with guns—what sort of talk is this?

What sort of judgment is it that the Indians will possess 950 fighter planes while we will not even have 100 such planes? The Indians will possess the latest fighter planes like the MiG-29, the Mirage 2,000, and the Anglo-French made Jaguars, while we will only have the Chinese-made MiG-19 of the World War II era—and then only a few dozen of these. What is the logic behind this?

In line with the opinion of the Western world, including that of Britain and the United States, the Indians like Dr. Manmohan Singh have also started advising Bangladesh that, with a view to eradicating poverty, it is necessary to reduce its military budget. A Dhaka English daily, the DAILY STAR, in its issue of 10 July, quoting the United News of Bangladesh, published a report based on the statistics given in the latest report of the UNDP. These statistics show that in the SAARC region, Pakistan makes the highest allocation for the defense sector in its budget. The per capita income of this country is $440. After his arrival in Dhaka, Manmohan Singh claimed that the defense allocations of India were much less than that of Pakistan. In spite of this, why is the per capita income of India less than $310? The defense spending of Bangladesh is the lowest in the world. This year, Bangladesh allocated only 1.7 percent of its GDP for the defense sector. Even so, why is the per capita income of Bangladesh less than $220? Bangladesh has the lowest military spending, but about 45 percent of its total population live below the poverty line. On the other hand, India spends 360 billion taka for its military purposes, but the number of people living below the poverty line in that country is 30 percent. Despite Pakistan's large spendings in the defense sector, why is the number of people living below the poverty line in that country only 22 percent?

In line with the Indians, a section of the so-called intellectuals and economists of Bangladesh are also pleading for reducing the military budget. Can they say why Vietnam, whose GDP is only $16 billion and whose population is 71.2 million, maintains an Army of 857,000? The population of Thailand is less that even half that of Bangladesh, but their defense budget is more than $3 billion. The population of North Korea is 23 million, but why is the strength of their Armed Forces over 1.12 million? Why do the North Koreans possess 3,700 tanks, 810 fighter planes, and 25 submarines? Why is the military budget of an island country like Sri Lanka $500 million more than that of Bangladesh? Why is the military budget of Jordan $542 million, that of Sudan $756 million, and that of Tunisia $575 million? Even a small country like Serbia, whose GDP is only $14 billion, has a military budget of $3.75 billion. Israel's population is only 5.2 million while its GDP is only $65 billion. Why is its defense budget $6.5 billion? By what logic does Israel maintain a fleet of 4,000 tanks and 700 fighter planes? The pro-left intellectuals of Bangladesh always praised the Cuban leader, Fidel Castro. Cuba's GDP is $13 billion while its total population is only 11 million. By what logic does it maintain a military budget of $1.16 billion?

Dr. Manmohan Singh has himself given the replies to these questions. The defense budget of a country depends on its security considerations. Under these considerations, the allocation for the defense sector of Bangladesh is very inadequate.

65,364 Rohingya Refugees Repatriated to Burma

BK1907130394 Dhaka DAINIK ITTEFAQ in Bengali 13 Jul 94 p 1

[ITTEFAQ Report]

[Text] The eagerness among the Rohingya refugees to voluntary go back to their country has increased. A total of 65,364 refugees had returned to their respective dwelling places in Burma as of 10 July. During the current year a total of 4,273 refugees were repatriated to their country. The repatriation process is continuing in accordance with the memorandum of understanding [MOU] signed between the Bangladesh Government and the UNHCR. The term of this agreement expired a few days ago.

The Bangladesh Government has sent a draft of the new MOU to the UNHCR. The repatriation process will continue in accordance with the provisions of the earlier MOU until the signing of the new agreement. When contacted in this regard, the representative of the UNHCR in Bangladesh, Mr. (Kann Nuguyen Tang), said that his organization gives top priority to voluntary repatriation of the refugees. In his opinion, the best solution to the refugee problem is voluntary repatriation. He said that this is being explained to the refugees living in the camps and added that as a result of this, the number of voluntary repatriations has significantly increased.

In the five receiving camps set up in Burma, arrangements have been made to receive 2,900 refugees every week. The capacity of these camps will be raised to 3,400 from 1 August. In these camps located in Burma each refugee is given Burmese currency equivalent to $40, some clothes, and food before they leave the camps for their homes in the villages. The Burmese authorities have so far given clearance for the repatriation of the 135,000 refugees to that country. The total number of refugees presently living in the refugee camps of Bangladesh is estimated at 194,513.

India

Press Release on Singh's Talks With UK's Hurd

BK2207063894 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 1456 GMT 21 Jul 94

[Press Release]

[Text] The external affairs minister, Mr. Dinesh Singh, met Mr. Douglas Hurd, the British foreign secretary, in London on 20 July, 1994. A number of subjects of mutual concern were discussed, in particular ways of strengthening bilateral cooperation, the situation in the South Asian region, and future Indo-British consultations on international issues. Mr. Hurd praised the economic reforms process in India and felt that there were special opportunities for U.K. companies for substantively upgrading trade and investment ties with India. They agreed that the Indo-British Partnership Initiative, IBPI, had made an important contribution to promoting investment and bilateral trade between the two countries. They also agreed that it was important to further strengthen the bilateral business partnership and specific measures could be considered to build on the complimentary ties and areas of strength.

Mr. Dinesh Singh apprised Mr. Hurd about India's concern and disappointment at Pakistan's continuing efforts to internationalize the Kashmir issue at a time when the tide had clearly turned against militancy and terrorism in the state, and the chances of reviving the political process looked promising. The British side was also informed of measures taken by the Indian government to improve transparency and strengthen safeguards against possible human rights violations in combating terrorism and the ongoing work of the Human Rights Commission. The British side continues to show understanding of the context of terrorism in which the human rights issue in Kashmir should be seen. It is also appreciative of various measures being taken by government of India towards revival of the political process.

The British foreign secretary was accompanied by his minister of state, Mr. Mark Lennox-Boyd; Mr. David J. Daine, superintending under-secretary; and Mr. Nick Griffiths, desk officer for India in the South Asian department of the FCO [Foreign and Commonwealth Office]. The Indian minister was accompanied by high commissioner, Dr. L.M. Singhvi, and the deputy high commissioner, Mr. K.V. Rajan.

Attacks on Diplomats' Cars in Pakistan Protested

BK2207032994 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 22 Jul 94

[Text] Two cars belonging to the Indian High Commission in Islamabad and the Consul General in Karachi were attacked yesterday evening by suspected Pakistan's intelligence agencies. The windshields of the cars were smashed. Narrating the incident in Islamabad, an Indian High Commission spokesman said that in the incident the driver of the car received injuries. He said the attack took place at 1830 in the evening when the driver was returning to the mission after sending three Indian officials home. The Indian high commissioner, Mr. S.K. Lamba, spoke to the Pakistan foreign secretary, Mr. Najmuddin Sheikh, on the telephone and conveyed New Delhi's strong protest. In Karachi, the attack took place a little earlier when an official car carrying the counsel, Mr. J.J. Singh, and two other diplomatic personnel were stoned. The Indian High Commission spokesman said the attack was in retaliation for the alleged attack on two cars, including the car of the Pakistan naval attache in New Delhi on Wednesday. Earlier, the Pakistan High Commission in New Delhi had requested the Indian Government to provide adequate protection to its personnel in view of what it charged as stepped up acts of intimidation and violence against the high commission's personnel by Indian security agencies. India has said the allegations made by the Pakistan High Commission were a ploy and orchestrated by its government to cover up two specific incidents of harassment of Indian diplomats in Islamabad and Karachi. A spokesman of the External Affairs Ministry said that the incidents involving the Indian diplomats earlier in the day were highly provocative in nature.

Meanwhile, Indian and Pakistani officials are expected to hold talks on the code of conduct for treatment of each other's diplomats in Islamabad next week.

Lack of Progress Seen in Talks With Pakistan

BK2007130594 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 18 Jul 94 p 8

[Editorial: "Quintessentially Pakistan"]

[Text] Given the history of Indo-Pakistan relations, it would be a dramatic event if the Benazir Bhutto government were seriously to call for a bilateral dialogue to resolve outstanding issues. By ruling out this possibility, she has only proclaimed her intention to cling to the policy of confrontation which Pakistan has followed over the years. She has, in her interview to the Saudi Arabian paper 'Ukaz, demanded India's willingness "in principle to hold a plebiscite in Jammu and Kashmir" as a precondition for talks. What better way there could be for her to banish the very thought of an Indo-Pakistan entente cordiale? In the aftermath of the latest Pakistani act of disruption of even normal diplomatic contacts, lesser leaders of that country have spelt out the same aversion to a genuine dialogue though in different words. They have, for instance, demanded the withdrawal of Indian troops from Kashmir as one of the preconditions. This is as irrelevant as India asking for the withdrawal of Pakistani troops from Sind as a condition precedent to talks with Pakistan. Even on the limited question of implementing the bilateral Code of Conduct on the treatment of each country's diplomats posted in the other, Islamabad has chosen to be inflexible. It wants the issue to be taken up simply by the respective High Commissions with the Foreign Ministries. This has understandably prompted the Indian Foreign Secretary K. Srinivasan to note that the two governments "are far apart in our perception of what the Code implies."

Only unlearning idealists could have thought that such serious setbacks to Pakistan's policy on Kashmir as was witnessed at the Human Rights Commission in Geneva in April and intensifying fights among the pro-Pakistani

outfits in Kashmir might make Islamabad a little more receptive to the idea of a bilateral dialogue. On the contrary, these very events have clearly hardened the Benazir Government's attitude. The Pakistani preparations to revive the Kashmir issue at the next session of the UN General Assembly cannot be dismissed simply as an annual ritual. Signs of greater belligerence on the ground, too, are not wanting. The fact that attempts are being made to induct an increasing number of foreign Islamic mercenaries into Kashmir is a telling instance.

Every Pakistani Government has also had to cope with domestic pressures against even normalisation of bilateral ties, let alone a negotiated solution of the Kashmir problem. Benazir Bhutto now faces an additional and far more serious trouble. That is the increasing stridency with which the Pakistani-installed government of so-called Azad Kashmir has started attacking her. This is clearly a fall-out of the dissensions among the terrorists. In such a situation, any regime in Islamabad would be apt to regard any talk of talks with India as subversion. And dialogue for what? New Delhi is rightly averse to it considering Islamabad's plans to raise the issue at UN General Assembly and other fora. It will take a long time before the two countries begin talking to each other again.

Greater Self-Reliance in Energy Urged

BK2107093794 Delhi NAVBHARAT TIMES in Hindi 18 Jul 94 p 6

[Editorial: "Business Losses or an Oil Crisis?"]

[Text] It would not be wrong to call the Indian balance of payments crisis an oil crisis. If the balance of payments situation has improved over past two years it is because of the slump in crude oil prices on the international market. The export growth rate was only 6.6 percent during the last financial year, causing business losses of $800 million. The reason the export growth rate remained stationery at 6.6 percent, however, was mainly because the price of oil went down. Now the price of oil has begun to go up on the international market. This will undoubtedly boost the import growth rate. If India fails to control it, it could lead to more business losses in coming years while progressively deteriorating the balance of payments.

The World Bank tried to portray the scenario of potential business losses to India, using projected figures and statistics in its assessment. According to this assessment, the import growth rate will reach 15.6 percent during the current financial year, as opposed to an export growth rate of only 14.6 percent. As a result, business losses will increase to $2.6 billion, up from $800 million during the last fiscal year. A similar situation has been forecast for subsequent years. The import figures given in the World Bank report could be exaggerated, but the export figures have the ring of truth. The 20 percent export growth rate registered by India during the last financial year is testimony to the firmness of our export sector. Last year international conditions were against exports. The developed countries were passing through a period of recession, including the United States, India's biggest trading partner.

Given such circumstances, India's 20 percent export growth rate came as a pleasant surprise. Now, however, the United States is coming out of its recession and there is a marked impetus in its efforts to establish business relations with Russia. We must hope that with the superior performance of our industrial sector, the chances for increased exports will improve. India might not maintain its earlier growth rate during this financial year, but in coming years it can look forward to enormous success. Hence the heart of the problem is with imports, and oil and related products top the list of our imports. Efforts to enhance our level of self- reliance in the energy sector have slacked off over the last five to six years. If we are to give due respect to the World Bank report and heed its advice, we must give top priority to exploration and development in the oil sector. Only then can India remain aloof to fluctuating oil prices on the international market. Only then will it overcome the balance of payments crisis, which is essentially an oil crisis.

Iran

Velayati, Syrian Minister View Regional Issues

LD1907183094 Tehran IRNA in English 1603 GMT 19 Jul 94

[Text] Tehran, July 19, IRNA—Syrian Minister of Culture and Higher Education Salihah Sunqar and Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati here Tuesday discussed Tehran-Demascus political and cultural relations as well as developments in Palestine and Lebanon.

Sunqar briefed Velayati on the education system of her country and lauded Iran's cultural and scientific achievements.

She said her country was keen on benefitting from experiences and services of the Islamic Republic of Iran in sepecialized scientific and academic fields.

Velayati termed as "deep and longstanding" bilateral political relations and underlined the need for expansion of cooperation between the two countries in various fields.

Transportation Minister's Visit to Turkey Viewed

NC2007192794 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Turkish 1630 GMT 19 Jul 94

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] The minister of roads and transportation is in Turkey to hold talks with officials there on the improvement of relations between Tehran and Ankara. He held talks with his Turkish counterpart and was received by

President Suleyman Demirel on 18 July. President Demirel informed Torkan that he welcomes the improvement of relations between Iran and Turkey and recalled that he will visit Tehran in the near future.

Torkan's talks in Turkey began on 15 July. The objective of his talks was to improve relations between the two countries, particularly in the transportation area. Torkan began his contacts in Agri after his crossed into Turkey through the border gate between the two countries. Later, he visited Trabzon and was briefed on the potential of the ports and highway transportation along Turkey's Black Sea coast.

As neighbors and founders of the Economic Cooperation Organization, the improvement of the cooperation between Iran and Turkey is essential. Considering that, the officials of the two countries have always made an effort to promote bilateral relations. Meanwhile, they have tried to prevent certain political developments from affecting the relations between the two sides.

The officials in Tehran and Ankara are convinced that the improvement of transportation services depends on the two sides' cooperation in trade. That is why they attach such importance to that matter. They have put into effect projects to improve the transportation routes and air links between the two countries. They have also reached a comprehensive agreement to broaden the contacts between the officials who are responsible for the two countries' roads and transportation services.

The political observers believe that the relations between Iran and Turkey are important not only in the area of economic development but also in the maintenance of peace and security in the region.

The talks the two sides hold from time to time are important. They have a positive bearing on regional relations and cooperation. Iran and Turkey are a bridge between Asia and Europe. They have strategic importance in the area of international transportation. In view of that, they can play an important role in the effort that is made to improve transportation services among the countries in Central Asia and the Caucasus.

Western Media 'Silence' on Khamene'i Speech Noted

LD2107211194 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1710 GMT 21 Jul 94

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] The hasty reaction of the Western world's propaganda mouthpieces toward yesterday's remarks of his eminence the leader and the simultaneous imposition of a conspiracy of silence by the same media—refusing to report the contents of the leader of the Islamic revolution's remarks through their propaganda instruments—confirms a section of his eminence the leader's remarks in which he said that the world today is beset by injustice on the part of those who claim to be the administrators of human rights [zamamdary-e hoquq-e bashar]. They cover up and deny the truth despite recognizing it. On the other hand, it reveals the Western world's apprehension of the strong logic of the recent remarks of the leader of the world Muslims.

According to his eminence, if the revealing ideology of the Islamic revolution is presented to the people of the world and reaches their hearts, that logical and reasonable word will affect their hearts since the majority of people are unbiased and because the European and American people bear no animosity. Also, the extravagant propaganda of the Western governments and Zionist mouthpieces will be disrupted. During the past month Iranian society has felt a number of clear cases of the blight that affects the world today, such as injustice and covering up the truth.

When the ominous plot on the day of Ashura happened in holy Mashhad the Western world and leaders of the influential Western states balked at even a verbal condemnation of that act. After that incident, when, by the grace of God, a chain of further incidents was discovered and neutralized, the perpetrators of the assassination of two Christian compatriots and bombing agents in other sacred sites were apprehended and confessed.

The conspiracy of silence by the media affiliated to the Western world was implemented in an unprecedented way. None of the Western news agencies published the relevant reports and world public opinion remained uninformed about the evil role of the Monafeqin [hypocrites—reference to Mojahedin-e Khalq] in the assassination of religious minorities. But, on the other side of the propaganda, when the bombing incident occurred at the large Zionist center in Argentina, a massive, united, anti-terrorist propaganda against Iran and the possibility of the Islamic Republic of Iran's role in that explosion took form so that it became a pressure factor in favor of the behind-the-curtain intentions of the true beneficiaries of the incident. In that regard some political analysts believe that, taking into consideration the current status of the Middle East region and the slow down of the trend of the compromise plan for the Zionist regime and regional Arabs, a great deal of benefit is accrued by the usurper Israeli regime from the Argentine explosion incident.

U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher is visiting the region, and the occurrence of events that can somehow fan the flames of allegations that the Islamic Republic of Iran and the groups supporting the Islamic revolution play a role in terrorist acts is a winning card that the American officials will seek to benefit from, at least at the negotiation table.

Thus, it does not seem unlikely that, just like the explosion at the Zionist regime's embassy in Argentina two years ago, the recent explosion turns out to be a product of the activities of the espionage-security establishments of the Zionists.

Moscow Accused of Hindering Agreement in Tajikistan

LD2107164694 Tehran IRNA in English 1316 GMT 21 Jul 94

[Text] Tehran, July 21, IRNA—Tehran's mediation in Central Asia, however unsuccessful, is still logical and politically beneficial for the Islamic Republic and the region, says the English-language daily TEHRAN TIMES.

The daily in an article blamed Russia for sabotaging peace in Dushanbe and for failure of the Tajik peace talks held in Tehran last June for such reasons as Moscow's direct influence in the republic and low level representatives present at the talks who had little authority to the peace talks, indicating their lack of interest in reaching a "quick and comprehensive" agreement.

"Representatives of the Dushanbe government were clearly under the direct influence of Moscow, which after the debacle of the Soviet Union, has tried to prevent other countries from resolving the Central Asian crises," said the daily.

Earlier, the daily added, Iran had experienced the negative Russian influence regarding peace efforts in that region, when Caucasus crisis was left unresolved despite Tehran's meddling efforts.

Therefore, it commented, it was unrealistic to think that the Russian leaders would allow the Tehran conference to succeed, knowing that all the credit would go to Iran.

The daily said that at the Tehran conference, Shukur Zuhurov, Tajik government representative, first agreed to the "amnesty in return for ceasefire" proposition, but after checking with Dushanbe, he changed his stand.

"This vacillation indicated that the Russians did not want a peace that was successfully brokered by the Islamic Republic, and wanted the negotiations to take place elsewhere," clarified the daily.

It predicted that there would be a rift between Russia and Turkmenistan when the former would be unable to meet Turkmenistan's economic shortages, including supplying Dushanbe, the only republic of former Soviet Union which still uses ruble as its currency, with its needed ruble in winter season.

The tide, it judged, has turned in favor of the opposition, and Moscow has no choice but to act quickly to prevent the fall of the Dushanbe regime by giving the opposition some, or all, of its demands.

However, it added, the Russians "do not want their failure in Dushanbe to be interpreted by the international community as an Iranian victory."

The TEHRAN TIMES said logic and political considerations dictate that the Islamic Republic continue with its role as an honest broker of peace, "since our country's regional enemies, as well as those in the West, are waiting for any opportunity to accuse us of warmongering and destabilizing the region."

Therefore, it concluded, Tehran's diplomatic efforts in Afghanistan, Tajikistan, and the Caucasus are the best measures to counter the enemies' propaganda campaigns against the Islamic Republic.

U.S. Blamed for World Trade Center Bombing

LD2107121994 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1003 GMT 21 Jul 94

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] Despite the moves undertaken by the propaganda apparatus of the Zionist regime and the Western governments to blame the Islamic movements in general, and the Islamic Republic of Iran in particular, for the explosion at the Zionists' center in Argentina, their inability to find any evidence to prove their allegations clearly failed and curtailed the intensity of their propaganda.

Sensational exploitation of this incident by Israel has gradually raised the finger of suspicion against rulers of the Zionist regime and their intelligence pawns; and there is increasing doubt among the analysts that the Zionist regime itself might be behind this horrific explosion. Within this framework it is quite natural that the Zionist regime would accuse its main enemies so as to exonerate itself. However, the practical exploitation of this incident by the Zionist regime, to put pressure on the Arab states, is so evident that one cannot accuse others for the explosion.

At a time when the U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher has embarked upon a diplomatic move to force the Arab governments to surrender before the Zionist regime, this explosion and its bloody consequences are the best weapon to break the Arabs' resistance and to force them to board the chariot of compromise with the Israeli occupiers. This incident is in full harmony and coordination with the usual tactics of the occupying regime. That is, the occupying regime always resorts to creating a crisis on the eve of U.S. diplomatic moves. Some examples of this claim are the seven-day war imposed on Lebanon by the Zionist regime on the eve of Christopher's earlier visit to the region. Also another example is the creation of tension when the Palestinians were expelled on the eve of another visit by the U.S. secretary of state.

Another incident worthy of consideration in this field was the bomb explosion at the New York World Trade Center, which was carried out by the U.S. police, the FBI, but attributed to the various Muslim groups. Six American citizens lost their lives in this incident and countless others were injured. This policy—that is, killing one's own citizens and accusing others—has been on the agenda of the U.S. police and Israel for some time.

It is not farfetched to assume that the same policy has been adopted to blow up the Zionists' center in Argentina. [passage omitted]

Of course the Zionist regime and its Western masters are not the only ones to exploit an explosion and its subsequent propaganda sensation. It is interesting that the symbols of blind and indiscriminate barbaric terrorism, that is the Monafeqin [hypocrites—reference to Mojahedin-e Khalq], are also exploiting the climate created by the Zionist regime and are trying to save themselves from the calamity that has trapped them. They are relieved that their crimes in Iran are overshadowed by the explosion at the Zionists' center. But as the thoughtful leader of the Islamic revolution [Khamene'i] stressed in his speech yesterday, the Islamic revolution enjoys such a strong logic and outstanding thought that it never needs to resort to terrorist acts to promote its ideology in the international arena. Terrorism is the logic used by those who lack rationality and resort to force and intimidation just to impose their ideas upon others. The holy and sanctified regime of the Islamic Republic is, therefore, exonerated from such accusations; and the Zionists and the hypocrites, due to their sinister nature, have no right to make any judgement about the Islamic Iran.

Tax Incentives Offered To Encourage Tourism

LD2007104194 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 20 Jul 94

[Text] The banks, by allocating 40 billion rials of credit during the current year, support the creation of facilities to promote domestic and foreign tourism. The tourism and pilgrimage deputy of the Islamic Culture and Guidance Ministry, in an interview with our correspondent this morning, discussed a resolution approved by the cabinet to promote domestic and foreign tourism. He said: For this purpose the necessary installations and premises required to offer services to promote tourism will be treated as projects of the industrial sector. That is, they will be exempt from payment of duties when applying for a building licence. The municipalities are, therefore, dutybound to exempt them from payment of new building construction taxes.

He added: Buildings and installations erected to offer services to tourists and travellers are also exempt from payment of connection charges for water, electricity, and gas. The fixed charges, after connecting these supplies, will also be the same as that of industrial projects, which is less than what is charged from other sectors.

Bandar-e Abbas Oil Refinery To Open in 1996

LD2007121994 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 20 Jul 94

[Excerpts] The experts and specialists of our country's oil industry, by connecting five units of the heaviest and biggest installations of Bandar-e Abbas' oil refinery number eight, have successfully concluded one of the important stages of this refinery:

[Begin unidentified correspondent recording] The installations that were connected include two vacuum towers, each weighing 205 tonnes and measuring 55 meters tall, and three boiler systems as a power source for the refinery, each weighing 200 tonnes. These very heavy pieces of equipment were connected using a 1,200-tonne crane that is capable of easily lifting equipment weighing 400 tonnes and 100 meters tall, and also a 38 diameter [word indistinct].

An executive official of the plan of the Bandar-e Abbas' oil refinery number eight added: In addition to the connected equipment, two [word indistinct] towers weighing 400 tonnes and measuring 67 meters in height were brought to the refinery, which will soon be connected by the capable hands of the Iranian experts. He put the progress level of the construction plan of Bandar-e Abbas' oil refinery at 55 percent. [passage omitted]

According to a fixed time table, Bandar-e Abbas' oil refinery number eight will be opened at the end of 1374 [year ending 20 March 1996] with a refining capacity of 232,000 barrels of oil per day. The refinery will be capable of producing various oil products. Its products will amount to $2 million daily profit for the country and an annual $400 million worth of (?extra added value). [end recording]

*New Larestan International Airport Inaugurated

94LA0208D Tehran KEYHAN-E HAVAI in Persian 22 Jun 94 p 11

[Text] **Larestan, 23 Khordad [12 June] (Central News Unit)—The new Larestan International Airport terminal was inaugurated and put into operation.**

This terminal was built at a cost of 670 million rials [R] on 50,000 square meters of land. This airport covers altogether 550 hectares.

The new Larestan International Airport terminal, which has a 3,000 square meter two-story building, has seven halls for the entry and exit of passengers, customs, banking, security and law enforcement personnel, a loading dock and an inspection area.

In the inauguration ceremonies for this terminal, Ayatollah Seyyed 'Abdol'ali Ayatollahi, the Friday imam of Lar; the deputy of the people of Larestan in the Majles; the director of National Airlines; and a group of people and local officials were present.

It is noteworthy that the people of Larestan have so far spent R2.67 billion in the form of self-help to build the international airport of this city.

In Ordibehesht [21 April-21 May] of this year, 198 domestic and foreign flights were made from this airport,

which equals all the flights in 1368 [21 March 1989-20 March 1990] from this airport.

Nepal

Prime Minister Defends Dissolution of Parliament

BK2207070894 Hong Kong AFP in English 0116 GMT 22 Jul 94

[Report by Kedar Man Singh]

[Text] Kathmandu, July 22 (AFP)—Nepal's prime minister Thursday [21 July] defended his role in dissolving the country's parliament and warned opposition parties not to boycott the mid-term polls scheduled for November.

In an exclusive interview with AFP, Girija Prasad Koirala said he had acted constitutionally when he advised King Birendra to dissolve the house of representatives and call for polls after Koirala resigned on July 10.

"Myself being a democrat, I always follow constitutional norms. I have not violated the constitution (by) advising the king to dissolve the house of representatives and call the mid-term polls," he said.

The king's move sparked widespread protests by supporters of the communist opposition, resulting in the arrest of 292 people after an outbreak of public unrest Wednesday, which prompted the government to put the army on alert.

Six communist factions have slammed the move and the king's decision to retain Koirala as head of a caretaker government charged with overseeing the polls.

They have threatened to boycott the elections if their demand for the formation of an all-party interim government is not met.

But Koirala, who resigned on July 10 after his defeat in a crucial parliamentary vote on his government's annual political and socio-economic programme, called on all parties to take part in the ballot, saying the communists would be making a "political blunder" if they failed to do so.

"None of the political parties should boycott the November mid-term polls. Rather they should go to the people for their fresh mandate."

Koirala, 69, who came to power in May 1991, also rebuffed opposition claims that he planned to "rig" the November 13 polls.

"My earnest efforts would be to conduct free, fair, and impartial elections which would be valid for next five years, but for this I need cooperation from all sectors—journalists, political opposition and the general public," he said.

"I am going to invite (an) international election monitoring group... to check whether the elections have been conducted in a free and a fair manner," he said.

He said he wanted a separate monitoring group to be formed in Nepal and that he was discussing the prospect with scholars, journalists, lawyers, social workers, human right groups and politicians of different ideologies."

"The elections should be free, fair and impartial so that it is internationally recognized," he added.

The veteran labour leader and pro-democracy activist denied that constituency boundaries had been altered to serve his own political ends, saying the changes were "scientific (in) some limited zones."

Earlier, the main-opposition Nepal Communist Party-United Marxist and Leninist (NCP-UML) General Secretary, Madhav Kumar Nepal, claimed Koirala had reconstituted the Election Commission and planned to alter constituency zones.

"This is a glaring instance of Koirala's evil design of rigging the November polls," Nepal told AFP.

Koirala, whose rule was plagued by opposition—both from within and outside his Nepali Congress party—to his leadership and criticism of his government's competence, was optimistic about the November elections.

"I am fully confident that if the Nepali Congress contested the elections unitedly, we will win the elections with a thumping majority".

He said his view was based on the development achieved under his three years in power, the results of which have been "enjoyed by the rural people of Nepal, who know what we have achieved and they will definitely vote for the Nepali Congress Party in the mid-term polls."

Koirala slammed opposition protests and strikes calling for his immediate removal from office as "not constitutionally correct."

"They should move constitutionally without destroying the public property in course of their protests," he said.

"The opposition party leaders should understand that the people today don't want political agitation and movements but only development," he said.

"If they think the agitation could win over the public mind, it is their mistake", he added.

Pakistan

Captive Pakistanis, Chinese Released

BK2207115694 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1100 GMT 22 Jul 94

[Text] Seven Pakistanis and two Chinese released from the captivity of Mullah Rocketi arrived in Islamabad this

afternoon by a special plane from the Bagram base in Afghanistan. They were received by the interior minister, retired Major General Nasirullah Khan Babar; Foreign Minister Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali; and the Saudi and Chinese officials. On board also arrived the Saudi and Pakistani ambassadors in Kabul, Mr. Eid Al-Otibi and Mr. Amir Usman. Mr. Otibi played a mediatory role for the release of the hostages. Those who arrived after the release include the deputy commissioner of Ziarat, retired Captain Atta Mohammad; Hawaldar [petty military officer] Sarwali; Mr. Mohammad Akram; Mr. Dad Mohammad; Mr. Ghulam Mohammad; Mr. Mohammad Zaman; Pir Mohammad; and the two Chinese engineers, Mr. Wang Qung Ping and Mr. Abin Hong Bao. They remained in the captivity of Mullah Rocketi for a period ranging from four and half months to over one year and were kidnapped into Afghanistan from Balochistan.

Afghan Embassy Condemns 'Misleading' Media Reports

BK2107122294 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 21 Jul 94 p 11

[Text] Islamabad—The embassy of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan here has condemned some of the Pakistani newspapers for publishing misleading and false speculations against the Islamic state of Afghanistan.

The embassy in a press statement on Wednesday said that Pakistani print media, especially, the "Daily Jang" and "The Frontier Post" are playing an active role in this regard. The press release further said "The Frontier Post" in its July 16, issue published on front page an article written by Qaiser Butt under the headline "Moscow-Delhi arming Rabbani" and "Daily Jang" in a recent issue under the caption "Criticism of Hikmatyar" brought about some accusations in connection with the foregoing matter, which was completely incorrect and far from reality. "It seems that these papers are performing the role of opposition for Afghanistan by publishing such misleading news," the press release added.

"These newspapers are publishing such articles and reports without quoting any authentic documentary proof or reliable source against Afghanistan, which are against the journalistic norms. Some journalists are being approached by some opposition parties from the back door to publish their views but the embassy of the Islamic State of Afghanistan cannot and will not approach them likewise for publishing its views on the matter," it said adding that the government of Afghanistan requests all the mediamen in Pakistan to desist from making false accusations and rescind hostile propaganda against Afghanistan and help in bringing the two nations and governments more close to have very strong ties.

PRC Minister Reaffirms Continued Cooperation

BK1907145994 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 19 Jul 94

[Text] China has reaffirmed its continued cooperation with Pakistan in all fields. The reaffirmation was made during the meeting between General Chi Haotian, the Chinese national defense minister, and Foreign Minister Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali in Islamabad today. The foreign minister underlined the special nature of the relationship between the two countries and their armed forces. He identified Indian suppression of the indigenous uprising of Kashmiri people with brute force as the primary threat to peace and security in the region. He drew attention to the fact that India has nuclear capability and has also developed medium-range missiles. Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali also briefed Gen. Haotian on the situation in the region and Pakistan's efforts to bring about peace in Afghanistan and Tajikistan.

The Chinese defense minister describing China-Pakistan friendship as deep-rooted, all-weather, and multidimensional reiterated China's firm opposition to hegemonism and power politics at the global and regional levels. He reaffirmed China's desire to continue to cooperate with Pakistan in all fields and further enhance and deepen the ties of friendship and cooperation.

Sources Say Anza Missile Program To Resume

BK1907135394 Islamabad PAKISTAN in Urdu 19 Jul 94 p 10

[Editorial: "Pakistan Will Produce the Anza-II Missile"]

[Text] Citing reliable sources, our staff reporter in Islamabad says that Pakistan will resume the Anza-II missile program with Chinese assistance. Pakistan suspended work on the Anza series of missiles in early 1991 under intense U.S. pressure. The United States had alleged that Pakistan supplied Stinger missile technology to China. Following the U.S. allegation, Pakistan stopped production of the missile, which was being done in collaboration with the PRC. China, of course, continued work on the missile and produced a surface-to-air missile called the Green Arrow. During the Chinese defense minister's current visit, Pakistan will ask China to transfer this missile technology. Meanwhile, Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto said in Multan that a missile race will begin in the South Asian subcontinent unless the world community forces India to abandon its missile program.

India is now producing three missiles—Prithvi, Agni, and Akash. The Prithvi missile is being deployed along the Line of Control in occupied Kashmir and on Pakistan's borders. Pakistan will have to counter it; obviously, there is no alternative but to produce a missile. The prime minister has made it clear that Pakistan is capable of defending itself in the face of the Indian missile program. Pakistan's scientists and technologists possess the best capabilities.

The only way that India can be prevented from producing and acquiring weapons of mass destruction is to bring international pressure to bear and devise ways to discourage its passion for amassing weapons. If this is not done, Pakistan will be left with no alternative and will be forced to join the missile race to ensure its own defense.

Editorial Urges Restraining Indian Missile Program

BK2207045594 Karachi NAWA-I-WAQT in Urdu 20 Jul 94 p 10

[Editorial: "Missile Race—India Should Be Restrained"]

[Text] Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has cautioned that if the world does not force India to abandon its missile program, a competition to manufacture missiles will kick off in the subcontinent. She has also said that, whatever the threat from this Indian program, Pakistan has the capability to defend itself. As far as India's missile manufacturing program is concerned, there is no doubt that it's sole aim is to achieve an aggressive military competency. Moreover, more attention is being paid toward the manufacture and testing of those missiles which can target more and more localities inside Pakistan beyond Indian borders. After the recent testing of the Prithvi and Agni series of missiles, the president of Pakistan, while addressing the annual conference of engineers, pointed to this and said only Quetta is outside the range of Indian missiles. The Western countries, who are emerging as champions of human rights and arms control, have not only identified India as an undeclared member of the nuclear club, but have done nothing to hinder its missile program. India has acquired the technology for these missiles from Russia and its Defense Research and Development Organization is also working on it. Restrictions are being imposed only on Pakistan. As China alone is helping us in the transfer of technology, it is under strong pressure not to provide us with missile technology. This kind of pressure was exerted on China during the Iran-Iraq war also when the presence of its Silkworm missiles in Iran was established. In any case, permitting the Indian defense machinery to go beyond its legitimate defense needs is part of the adoption of double standards, which has surfaced in the form of attempts to roll back our nuclear deterrence.

The term "world" used by Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto is meant for the Western countries, whose track record is already poor. Now, the United States is again flirting with the Indian Government and after President Clinton's statements in favor of Pakistan on the Kashmir issue, U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Robin Raphel herself visited New Delhi and tried to cool down the Indian leadership. In view of this, it is futile to expect that the U.S. Government will restrain India from going ahead with its program of missile production. Under these circumstances, we do not have any other alternative than to try to counter the Indian preparations; the 'Hatf' missile program is a small endeavor in this direction. The United States is blocking the way toward a hardcore program [preceding two words rendered in English] needed in view of our defense requirements. The Clinton administration does not have any objection to Israel, its agent, being equipped with Patriot missiles and taking aim at the Muslim countries around it. Neither does it object to India's continued manufacture of sophisticated surface-to-surface, surface-to-air, and antitank missiles—even though they adversely affect the balance of power in South Asia—leaving Pakistan to sit idly by and anticipate India's aggression. Pakistan's position has never been seen in the right perspective, which is that it has been forced to enter the arms race reluctantly. And if India's missiles program is not given a befitting reply, given Pakistan's suffering from Indian aggression in three wars in the past and the massacre of Muslims in occupied Kashmir, what is left to guarantee Pakistan's existence? Already, every possible attempt is being made to wrest the nuclear deterrence from our hands. The American new world order is meant to suppress only the Muslims and push regional policemen on them so as to make it work well. And to be fair, there should not be any partiality in imposing restrictions. Benazir Bhutto's statement that Pakistan has the capability to defend itself is quite encouraging. However, it is imperative that the government inform the Western countries that discriminatory policies will make it difficult to guarantee the existence of small countries in the subcontinent. India is in an offensive position and it is essential to restrain it.

Economy Reportedly 'Slowed Down'; Figures Cited

BK2107140394 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 21 Jul 94 p 1

[Text] Islamabad, July 20—Though Pakistan's trade deficit narrowed to 1749.3 million dollars for the fiscal year 1993-94, as compared to 3127.5 million dollars in 1992-93, the exports failed to grow and imports suffered a sharp decline during the year, official sources disclosed to The Muslim.

According to details exports failed to touch even the meagre performance of 6.813 billion dollars during the year 1992-93 and amounted to 6.754 billion dollars during the previous fiscal year ending on June 30 1994. This bad performance in exports has been attributed to poor cotton crop during the year under review.

The imports on the other hand showed a sharp decline during the previous year as they fell to 8.5 billion dollars as compared in 9.911 billion dollars in 1992-93 reflecting a decline of 14.5 percent. "This clearly indicates that country's economy has slowed down", added an official source.

Rice traditionally has been the important foreign exchange earner for Pakistan. During the year 1993-94 its exports amounted to 234.5 million dollars as compared to 317.1 million dollars in 1992- 93 showing a fail

of 26 per cent. The reason is not that/that Pakistan had bad crop but that the country has lost its major markets to India.

Due to bad cotton crop during the year under review this sector performed badly. The export of raw cotton declined from 270.8 million dollars in 1992-93 to 79.5 million dollars in 1993-94 showing a fall of 70.6 per cent. During the closing days of previous fiscal year Pakistan had to put ban on the export of raw cotton. But as the crisis was too severe Pakistan had to import the raw cotton amounting to 300 million dollars. Despite odds Pakistan managed to show encouraging performance in the export of cotton yarn which helped save Pakistan's export bill from a total collapse. The export of cotton yarn surged to 1231.5 million dollars during the year under review as compared to 1121.5 million dollars in 1992-93.

The export of cotton cloth, readymade garments, bedwear towels, tents and carpets suffered a decline of 4.9 percent, 1.3 percent, 21.9 percent, 9.4 percent during the year 1993-94 as compared to 1992-93.

The reason for the decline in these items is that due to non-availability of raw material in most of the cases Pakistan failed to meet the demand from abroad.

The export of surgical goods suffered a decline of 18.2 percent during the year under review as compared to 1992-93 but the healthy sign is that after a couple of years poor performance the export of sports goods surged to 170.9 million dollars during the year 1993-94 as compared to 131.4 million dollars in 1992-93 reflecting an increase of 30.1 percent.

On the import side machinery excluding transport equipment suffered a heaviest fall as it came down to 1836.6 million dollars in 1993-94 from 2410.3 million dollars in 1992-93 showing a fall of 23.8 percent. The fall in the import of machinery clearly indicates that there is a lull in the industrial activity of the country. The healthy sign is that the import of petroleum and petroleum products during the year under review declined to 8.5 percent as compared to previous year. The import of these items which always had the major share of country's import bill declined from 1541.9 million dollars in 1992-93 to 1410.6 million dollars in 1993-94.

The other plus point was the decline in the import of edible oil. The import of this segment declined from 583.7 million dollars in 1992-93 to 407.9 million dollars in the year under review showing a fall of 9.6 percent.

The other major item which has always been a cause of increase in the import bill of the country is the unmilled wheat but during the year 1993-94 the import of this item also declined to 238.3 million dollars against 46.5 million dollars in the fiscal year 1992-93.

The import bill of tea, sugar and pulses also fell by 12.8 percent, 32 percent and 41.2 percent during the year under review as compared to the fiscal year 1992-93. The fall in the import of all these items is a healthy sign for the economy of the country.

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